Oxfordshire Guardian
DIDCOT EDITION

Inside this week:
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WHEELCHAIR WISECRACKS

• *Hannah Ensor and (right) her three stick-man books*

Didcot author suffering from mobility condition takes a humourous look at her experiences on a day-to-day basis

A DIDCOT author who has written three books about her experiences with a condition that left her in a wheelchair will be holding a signing session in the town later this month.

Hannah Ensor suffers with Hypermobility syndrome (HMS), and has put together three cartoon books to give a humourous approach to what she has to go through on a daily basis.

HMS is a connective tissue disorder, and means that Hannah's joints stretch further than normal.

Using stick-men characters, Hannah's books are filled with handy hints and one-liners, and have won praise from medical professionals, patients, and their friends and families.

"I started experiencing how uncomfortable people could be around disability and how difficult it was to explain things about it," Hannah said.

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"Either people did not realise what you mean, or people took it really seriously and got scared by it.

"So I started drawing cartoons as a way of showing it how it is, in such a way that people aren't scared by it or put off by it."

Her three books in the series are: 'You know you have been in hospital too much when...', 'You know you have Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome when...', and 'You know you have Hypermobility syndrome or Ehlers Danios Syndrome when...'.

Hannah added: "I use the book whenever anyone asks what's wrong with me, I hand them the book and within minutes they're laughing and saying 'oh my word, that's normal for you!'

"I've even had the case where someone had read the book, and five minutes later I had partially dislocated my wrist, and needed them to help me put it back in.

"That's a scary thing to ask someone to do, but because they'd read the book, they'd had a laugh about that page already.

"It really facilitated me getting what I wanted, and them not finding it scary because they knew that's what happens. Yes it's unpleasant, but it's ok."

Hannah will be at the Didcot branch of WHSmith on November 28 from 6pm to 9pm, at the same time the town's street fair is taking place.

For more information about her books, go to www.stickmancommunications.co.uk.

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'Give them a fitting final resting place'

OXFORD war graves that had become overgrown and forgotten about have been restored, after work to bring the site to its former glory was carried out by a team from RAF Benson.

The graves at Osney Lane Cemetery is the final resting place of 27 soldiers, and each headstone has been prepared to receive dwarf daffodils, snowdrops and white stone chippings.

It was the idea of Sergeant Steve Brown, who noticed the overgrown graves as he passed by the site on a train.

Steve then visited the cemetery to inspect the graves, and began to work to restore the site.

This included a lot of background work, first to confirm that the graves were registered with the War Graves Commission, and then to ensure there were no family objections to the proposed project.

They then collected the bulbs and a donation of stone chippings from Wickes, before clearing the site of weeds and preparing the headstones.

By Adam Flinn
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Steve said: "The graves were scattered across the cemetery and we wanted to make sure that they were uniform.

"We couldn't place the stone chippings surrounding the headstone as you would normally see on a war grave, as some of the headstones were so close to the railings.

"But we hope that the work we've managed to do gives a small amount of respect to the boys who gave their lives for us."

The project was carried out by the Military Provost Guard Service (MPGS) from RAF Benson, and worked on by Steve, Lance Corporal Dean Millward and Private Pat Lockyer.

They were also assisted by colleagues Corporal Pat Bone and Lance Corporal Hern Thapa, who were on duty during the renovations.

Dean said: "We are honoured to be able to take on this project as a unit.

"The MPGS at RAF Benson are a close knit bunch and many of us have seen action at some point in our career.

"To know that we have been able to give these guys a fitting final resting place is a heart-warming feeling.

"As the poem says, they gave their tomorrow for our today, and we should be eternally grateful to them all."

The team will continue to look after the graves to keep them in a good condition, and ensure they are suitable for the fallen soldiers.

They also visited the cemetery over the weekend to commemorate Remembrance Day, laying a wreath and placing a personalised poppy on a small wooden cross on each grave.

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News Bites

Toilets open

GLOUCESTER Green's public toilets will be officially opened today, following a refurbishment of the facility as part of a scheme to improve 21 public conveniences across Oxford.

The new toilets incorporate premium fixtures and fittings, featuring energy efficient hand wash facilities and bright low-energy LED lighting.

It is part of a major overhaul of the Gloucester Green toilets, with the dated electrics and plumbing systems being completely upgraded.

He said: "The new facilities are completely transformed with increased space and new parent and baby facilities.

"The transformation is amazing and I am delighted with the results, and I hope the residents and visitors to the city are as well."

Work to improve the toilets cost approximately £130,000, with the total cost of the scheme expected to be £450,000.

Happy dogs!

A BANBURY charity has received £13,000, which was raised by this year's annual Wasperton to Stratford raft race organised by the Wellesbourne and Shakespeare Lions clubs.

Dogs for the Disabled also entered a team themselves, and won the 'Endurance Shield' by completing the entire seven mile course with their raft partially submerged.

Jane Sargent, regional fundraiser for the charity, said: "We are delighted the Lions have raised this fantastic sum to help us purchase and train more assistance dogs."

Suspended sentence for Oxford man, 24

A 24-YEAR-OLD man was given a four-month suspended prison sentence at Oxford Magistrates' Court last Thursday, following a sexual assault which occurred in July.

Silviano Pereira, of Sorrell Road, Blackbird Leys, was also given a 24-month supervision requirement, and ordered to pay £750 in compensation to the victim.

The incident in question took place on a bus in the Blackbird Leys area, where Pereira inappropriately touched his victim, a 23-year-old woman.

He pleaded guilty to one count of sexual assault by touching following the offence, which occurred in the early hours of July 27.

Investigating officer Det Con Darren Little of Local CID in Oxford said: "I hope this case highlights the fact that Thames Valley Police will investigate every report of sexual assault.

"I welcome the sentence imposed upon Pereira, who will face imprisonment should he commit any offences in the next two years.

"I hope Pereira's sentencing will now bring some closure to the victim, who was extremely distressed by the incident."

Townsend cleared of all sex assault charges

ABINGDON Chamber of Commerce's former president Paul Townsend has been cleared of 20 sexual offences charges, at the end of his trial at Oxford Crown Court on Friday.

Mr Townsend was charged back in March and stepped down as president as a result, along with his former role on the Dunmore Pre-School Committee.

Charges included 13 counts of sexual activity with a child, three of sexual assault and a further four of causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity.

They related to alleged incidents by four teenage girls over a two-year period, with Townsend stating all along that he had only hugged them.

He admitted to buying one of the girls some lacy underwear, but denied all other allegations after first being arrested in August 2012.

Jurors took approximately six and a half hours to reach their decision on Friday, to conclude the three-week trial.

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New bus route in place after service review

BUS operator Thames Travel has announced a new X1 service linking Didcot with Oxford, Harwell and Wantage to come into effect from December 8, following a review of its services.

Improvements will also be made to the X2 and X32 routes, which will see up to three buses an hour made available for passengers travelling between Didcot and Oxford.

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By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

But it comes at the loss of the 32 services, meaning buses to Grove will only be available on Sundays from next month.

Thames Travel general manager Adrian Tullett said: "We are making a number of changes to our services in the area.

"The vast majority of our passengers will benefit from more frequent buses linking directly to Didcot, Milton Park and Oxford.

"The changes were made following a detailed study of passenger numbers and travel patterns, which showed that because of the layout of the estates in the Grove district, our buses take a long time to serve the area.

"With relatively low passenger numbers, the limited resources we have can be used more efficiently to improve parts of the route where passenger numbers are greater."

The 32 service had previously been subsidised by Oxfordshire County Council, but asked Thames Travel to take it on as a commercial route following cost-saving measures undertaken in 2010.

Hugh Jaeger, spokesperson for Bus Users UK Oxford, said: "This is a route that Thames Travel has run without subsidy and at a loss for the last two years, saving the county tens of thousands of pounds.

"The county council should restore a subsidy in order to reinstate Grove's bus links to Milton Park and Didcot, where many of Grove's 7,000-plus residents work.

"Otherwise more will commute by car if they can afford to, and those who cannot will lose out."

A council spokesperson said: "Reviews of subsidised bus services take place routinely in each part of Oxfordshire once every six years.

"This periodic review of subsidised bus services has taken place since bus services were deregulated in the 1980s.

"They are set up to review current contract arrangements and assess whether those services covered by these contracts need amending.

"By this process, some bus services are created, some are discontinued and others altered based on passenger numbers."

• *Bradley Antill*

Jailed child rapist is 'extremely dangerous predatory offender'

AN OXFORDSHIRE man has been jailed for 15 years following a number of sexual offences against a child, including rape, which took place in Didcot and Wantage.

Bradley Antill, 46, of Fulmar Place, Grove, was sentenced at Oxford Crown Court last Thursday for a total of 14 offences relating to a child under 13-years-old.

This included three counts of indecent assault, eight counts of gross indecency, one count of rape and two counts of sexual assault.

The charges relate to incidents that took place between May 1, 2002 and April 30, 2004, when Antill assaulted the girl, who was aged from six to nine-years old at the time.

He was found guilty of all the charges against him on October 1 this year, following a seven-day trial in Oxford.

Investigating officer DC Maria Morrisey, of the Child Abuse Investigation Unit, said: "I am delighted with the sentence imposed upon Antill, who is an extremely dangerous predatory offender.

"Antill preyed on his vulnerable victim, who was only aged between six and nine at the time of the offences.

"Further, he denied the allegations against him which forced his victim to relive these appalling and frightening experiences.

"I would like to take this opportunity to praise the bravery of the victim for giving her evidence and allowing justice to prevail."

News Bites

Disruption

A WEEKEND of disruption is expected on the A34 from tomorrow evening, starting with an abnormal load being transported from Didcot Power Station to the M4 from 7pm.

As part of the dismantling of the power station, transformers are being moved from the site to Avonmouth Docks near Bristol.

It will be carried on a girder trailer with three tractors, but can only travel at a maximum of 10mph while blocking both lanes.

After reaching the junction with the M4 on Friday night, it will then travel westbound on the motorway, causing further delays.

This is coupled with planned maintenance work on the A34 between the Milton Interchange and the junction with the M4, which will be closed southbound from 10pm tomorrow until 6am on Monday.

Diversions will be in place, and Thames Valley Police are asking motorists to find alternative routes.

Shop help

CONVENIENCE store chain Costcutter have donated £300 to help Sutton Courtenay Cricket Club (SCCC), to help with expenses for youth members.

The cheque was presented in a ceremony outside the store in Sutton Courtenay by manager Francis Savva-Savvi to members of the Old Wallingford Way club, based at the Recreation Ground.

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More parking spaces set for areas of Oxford

PLANNING permission has been granted to five projects in Oxford, which form part of Oxford City Council's capital programme of car parking works.

The works will take place over the next three years at a cost of £1.5m, part of which has already funded the completed verge protection project at Ashurst Way in Rose Hill.

As a result of the approval, 18 residents' parking spaces will be created in Blackbird Leys Road, with 16 spaces being created in Chillingworth Crescent.

There will also be 19 spaces created in Monks Close, 13 in Redmoor Close and 30 in Normandy Crescent.

Work on Blackbird Leys is scheduled to start later this month after a number of long-standing complaints about vehicles parking on grass verges, with parking improvements being top of a residents' wish list.

"These projects form part of the Great Estates programme," said Cllr Scott Seamons, board member for housing.

"We are delivering improvements to the external areas of our housing estates, and having these approved means we can now move these projects forward.

"As a local councillor, I know from calling round that the parking problem on Blackbird Leys Road is particularly bad.

"It's great to see that local concerns have been listened to and the work is now starting.

"Many of our estates were built before tenants owned one car, let alone the two or more they have today, creating an obvious need for more parking provision.

"At the moment, tenants in some places have taken to parking on the grass with little other option available.

"We want to create quality external environments in our estates with proper parking spaces provided and the remaining green spaces protected."

A further 35 sites are now being considered as part of next year's programme, which is currently being formed.

By **Adam Flinn**
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Children's charity donations are hampered!

NURSERY children from Rose Hill have done their bit for charity by donating harvest hampers full of food to local causes.

The hampers have been donated to Helen and Douglas House, Oxford Children's Hospital and Oxford Homeless Pathways.

The children teamed up with the Midcounties Co-operative Food store in Ashurst Way, Oxford, and chose food from the shop to put into their specially decorated hampers.

Aaron Gee, store Manager at the shop in Oxford, said: "It was great having the children come into the store and they were interested in the different types of food we have and where it comes from.

"The children were very enthusiastic about donating the food to the charities they selected and were excited to get the hampers back to the nursery to decorate."

Lisa Thornton, nursery manager at Rose Hill, added: "We took five groups of children into the food store and they really enjoyed choosing what to put in their hampers.

"After bringing the hampers back to the nursery, the children worked together to decorate them, which they loved.

"It was a fun activity for the children to get involved in as it really helped them learn about the importance of charitable giving."

• (Left to right) Lisa Thornton, Nicola Robertson, third in charge at the nursery, Sophie Smith, deputy manager at the nursery, Donna Wood, deputy manager at the Cooperative Store, with Bianca Stefankiewscz, Connor Edwards, and Livi Mossop.

Get down to university's spring school

BOOKING is now open for Oxford University's Spring School, organised by the Faculty of English Language and Literature on the theme of British poetry of the First World War.

It will run from April 3 to 5 and is open to the public, bringing together experts on First World War poetry to give lectures and guide attendees to further avenues of study.

Dr Stuart Lee, organiser of Spring School, said: "The poetry of the First World War is some of the most important and influential work of the 20th century, shaping our attitudes to war and still having enormous cultural resonances.

"This is witnessed by the national debate surrounding the commemoration of the start of the war 100 years on.

"However, the poetry also brings into question so many 'truths' that it is appropriate we revisit this important body of work in a new light in 2014."

Speakers who have been confirmed to attend next year's event include Adrian Barlow, Simon Featherstone and Jane Potter, alongside a number of other experts in the field.

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Cloudy2Clear service Oxfordshire from their local depots and Josh is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truthis that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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Winter lights preparations

TWO free workshops are being held in Carterton this weekend, to give people the chance to make their very own lanterns ahead of the town's Winter Lights Procession.

Oxfordshire artist Emma Cooling and West Oxfordshire District Council arts and leisure manager Heather McCulloch will lead the workshops, and help residents create paper lanterns ahead of the procession, taking place on November 29.

Heather, who has been involved with the event since it started four years ago, said: "I love the Carterton winter lights workshops.

"Each year so many people come along and I am looking forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting old friends again. It's a lovely atmosphere, really magical."

Both will take place at Carterton Community Centre: the first on Saturday from 10am to 4pm, and the second on Sunday from 1pm to 5pm.

The procession itself begins at 5.30pm at the community centre, arriving in town for participants to see the Christmas lights being switched on.

Cllr Richard Langridge said: "The event has really captured the imagination of the people of Carterton with some wonderful lanterns created each year."

Witney veteran, 89, revisits battlefields

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

• *Veterans taking part in D-Day Revisited, which sees them return to Normandy*

A WITNEY Second World War veteran, who has taken part in the National Lottery funded project D-Day Revisited, has appeared on Saturday night's National Lottery Live programme.

Patrick Churchill, 89, was one of nine veterans to appear on Saturday's show as part of D-Day Revisited, which was established in 2008 to ensure that the thousands of lives lost are not forgotten.

Veterans have been able to pay their tributes to the soldiers who didn't come home by making pilgrimages to the Normandy beaches, after the project was given over £44,000 of lottery funding.

Patrick was an RM Commando who landed on Juno Beach early on D-Day, and has been awarded the Croix de Guerre medal by former French President Jacques Chirac.

"I was delighted to have had this opportunity to appear on National Lottery Live," said Patrick. "It is an ideal way to show our appreciation for the funding.

"It means such a great deal to return to those battlefields. Although nearly 70 years have passed, we still feel a strong sense of duty to return to pay respects to our comrades who were not so fortunate."

John Phipps of D-Day Revisited said: "We are always keen for the wider public to learn about the Normandy landings and how it has affected all our lives. In many ways the veterans are ordinary people from within our own neighbourhoods.

"They are granddads and great-granddads now, yet when they were young men they trained hard, then stormed the beaches of the Atlantic Wall and liberated Europe.

"For that huge contribution to our modern freedoms, D-Day Revisted's motivation is to help veterans to be front and centre so that we can learn more of our nation's history from the people who were actually there."

Each year, D-Day Revisited take around 100 veterans back to France each year, and are open to anyone who took part in Operation Overlord or the wider Normandy campaign.

For more information about the D-Day Revisited project, go to www.d-dayrevisited.co.uk or phone 01244 531765.

Three serious collisions in Thame area

FIRE crews in Thame have dealt with three separate serious road traffic collisions in recent weeks, all occurring in the Thame area.

On October 27, a man was seriously hurt after being thrown from his car when it collided with a tree on the A329 between Milton Common and Thame at around 11pm.

A second incident took place on November 3 after two vehicles collided on the M40 near to junction 8a.

Two male occupants of a van were treated at the scene, and were both taken to hospital for further checks.

Then on November 6, a man was seriously hurt and had to be cut free from his car after a collision between two vehicles on the A329 near Great Milton.

A woman was also taken to hospital with a broken wrist.

Watch manager Andy Ford from Thame fire station said: "The people injured in these collisions suffered serious injuries and it's very fortunate it has not been worse.

"We would remind all drivers that with the dark nights and wet weather, road conditions can be slippery.

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Train hits car at level crossing

A BANBURY woman has been detained under the mental health act after the car she was driving was struck by a train in Yarnton on Tuesday.

The incident took place at the Sandy Lane level crossing on Tuesday at around 4.40pm. Police, fire crews and the ambulance service were called out.

The woman, believed to be in her 40s, remains in hospital for assessment, although her injuries are not understood to be serious.

At the scene she was discovered in her black Volkswagen Golf, and had to be cut out of the car.

A British Transport Police spokesperson said: "The train involved, the 2.45pm Bournemouth to Manchester Piccadilly Cross Country service, remained upright and on the tracks.

"There were no reported injuries to the 100 passengers onboard the train."

It comes after an 85-year-old man was killed at the level crossing in January.

Officers are working to establish the full circumstances surrounding the incident, and are asking for anyone with information about the incident to contact 0800 405040.

University alumni go back to the classroom

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

OVER 100 Oxford University students, staff and alumni have joined a programme to encourage pupils at their former state schools to continue with higher education and apply to university.

Oxford students were the biggest group to offer their support as part of this year's Back to School Week, a nationwide campaign for former students to help young people at their old schools.

It was organised by social enterprise charity FutureFirst, who encourage those taking part to return to their former state school to give career and UCAS talks and guidance, become a governor, or make a donation.

Oxford University Student Union (OUSU) and the university's Widening Participation team collaborated to sign up as many undergraduates for the scheme as possible.

Rachel Pickering, Vice-President for access and academic affairs at OUSU, said: "We managed to sign up three times as many people to this excellent scheme than any other student union, accounting for nearly five per cent of national sign-ups.

"This is amazing and really proves how engaged our students, staff and alumni are in outreach and access work."

OUSU signed up many students during Freshers' Week, while Widening Participation gave out postcards to staff and sent information to parents.

Tara Pravag, head of Widening Participation, said: "Our staff make countless visits to schools throughout the year to encourage students to think about higher education. But there is no substitute for school children being able to hear directly from students who were in their position only a few years ago."

Oxford University Press will also be contributing by providing 1,000 books to be given to state school students.

This is part of Widening Participation's primary school programme, to help 35 schools in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and Swindon.

Find us on Twitter @OxfordGuardian

Police released image of bedroom attacker

POLICE have released an e-fit following a sexual assault that took place in Oxford in the early hours of October 9.

At 4.30am, a woman was asleep in a James Street property when she awoke to find a man in the room with her, who then kissed her and left the building through a window.

A man matching his description was then seen outside the same property on October 18, who knocked on the door and then left the scene.

He is believed to be black or mixed race, in his early to mid-twenties, around 5ft 7ins to 5ft 8ins, of lean build with dark short hair.

During the first incident, he was wearing dark trousers and a grey plaid lumberjack-style shirt.

The second time, the man was seen wearing dark blue jeans and a long-sleeved black and white shirt.

• *Have you seen this man?*

Detective Sergeant Simon Hannam, investigating officer of Force CID based in Oxford, said: "The victim of this assault, though thankfully unhurt, was left very shaken."

"I urge anyone who saw a man in the e-fit or matching the description to contact police immediately, or call Crimestoppers."

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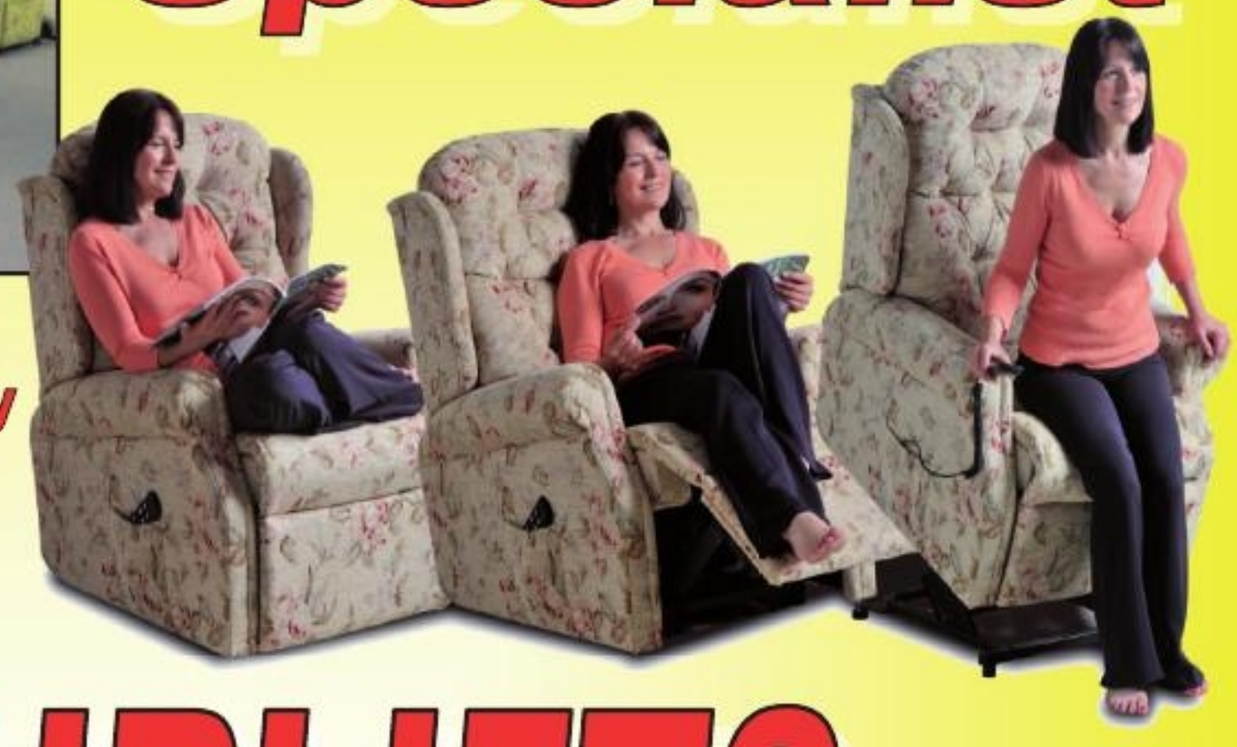

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U's players hope to hit right notes

A HANDFUL of Oxford United players will be part of a special Christmas choir later this month.

Striker James Constable, defenders Johnny Mullins and Sam Long and midfielder Scott Davies, along with members of the Ladies team and Youth team, will form an Oxford United choir.

They will be trained by Darren Lord, a musical director who has previously worked on Mamma Mia and Wicked, before the big performance on November 24 on a main stage in St Giles.

James said: "I'm delighted to be a part of the Christmas Choir to really show that we as a club want to be involved with our local community.

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"I'm not convinced by my voice but hopefully Darren Lord will be able to improve that."

It is all part of Oxford City Council's Day of Song, which will see ten local and national choirs performing in cultural venues, shops and St Giles.

The players will be singing as part of the big finale to the Christmas Light Festival.

Rachel Capell, events officer at Oxford City Council, said: "This is the first time we have organised the Day of Song and we are really excited that so many choirs are taking part.

"We are also pleased that Oxford United players are joining us and we hope that it will attract a variety of people to the city on Sunday afternoon.

"The day is an opportunity to walk round different cultural venues and listen to a variety of different choirs before joining us for the finale in St Giles which promises to be fantastic."

Christmas Light Festival is an annual event of art, music, dance and performance.

It begins with Christmas Light Night and the Lantern Parade on November 22 and ends with the Day of Song, taking place from 10am until 4pm across the city with the finale at 3.30pm in St Giles.

Host parties to raise funds for homeless!

AN OXFORD-BASED charity is calling upon families, schools, offices and community groups to host Christmas parties to help raise money for homeless people.

Crisis Skylight Oxford, the city's branch of the national charity for single homelessness, want people to support its work as the festive seasons draws closer.

Lord Mayor of Oxford Dee Sinclair met Kate Cocker, director of Crisis Skylight Oxford, and Debbie Smart, who has been homeless, at a special launch event for the Crisis Christmas Parties.

Leslie Morphy, Crisis chief executive, said: "Being homeless is a frightening, lonely, desperate place to be – and the sad fact is that homelessness is rising.

"By hosting a Crisis Christmas Party, you will allow us to help even more of the most vulnerable and isolated people in our society, all year round."

Last year 311 households in Oxfordshire were accepted as homeless by their council, a 25 per cent increase over two years.

Ms Smart became homeless after the break up of her marriage, having struggled with mental health problems throughout her adult life.

She said: "Crisis has given me hope, a sense of purpose and a place to feel welcome – it's become my candle in the dark."

• *Debbie Smart, Kate Cocker and Dee Sinclair (Picture by David Fleming)*

News Bites

Right tune

OXFORDSHIRE'S County Youth Orchestra was given the chance to perform at the Royal Albert Hall on Tuesday, as they took part in the National Schools' Prom.

It followed an award-winning performance at the National Festival of Music for Youth back in July.

Melinda Tilley of Oxfordshire County Council said: "This was a fantastic opportunity and the experience will no doubt live in their memories for years to come."

Home scheme

AN AFFORDABLE home contents insurance scheme, which aims to help Oxford City Council tenants protect their possessions, has been announced.

It will be launched in January 2014, and covers tenants' personal belongings against theft, fire, vandalism or burst pipes.

Cllr Scott Seamons, board member for housing, said: "Tenants need to think about taking out home contents insurance to protect their possessions. It's a scheme that meets many people's needs at a price they can afford."

Workshops

SCIENCE Oxford have revealed a list of schools where they will be staging workshops during the rest of the month, in the run-up to the judging of their construction challenge.

Cutteslowe Primary School will be holding a workshop tomorrow morning, while SS Mary and John Primary School will host theirs the following Friday.

As part of the construction challenge, children work in teams to build a working model of a crane, allowing them to understand a range of engineering skills.

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News Bites

Review is due

A JUDICIAL review into Cherwell District Council's decision to approve the Banbury Gateway development concluded last Thursday, with a final decision expected in the coming weeks.

The two-day hearing at London's High Court came about because Aegon and Scottish Widows, who respectively own Banbury Cross Retail Park and Castle Quay, were concerned the decision-making process was not legally sound.

It relates to investment company LXB's plans to create a number of retail units and cafés on the existing Prodrive site in Acorn Way, approved by the council in March 2012.

World record

MORE than 30 pupils from Ferndale Preparatory School in Faringdon got to go to the Royal Albert Hall as part of a successful Guinness World Record attempt, for the most Ocarinas playing at the same time.

More than 3,200 children and adults filled the venue, to beat the record previously set in China.

Jonathan Greatorex, head of music at the school, said: "The atmosphere was incredible and it was a really special event."

We are all so proud of him, and always will be

THE repatriation of Warrant Officer Class 2 (WO2) Ian Fisher, from 3rd Battalion The Mercian Regiment, is scheduled to take place from RAF Brize Norton today.

WO2 Fisher, 42, from Barking, Essex, died on November 5 during a two-day operation to disrupt insurgent activity in Kamparak, Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

His vehicle was targeted by a suicide attack, and after being evacuated by air to the military hospital at Camp Bastion, it was confirmed that he had been killed in action.

He leaves behind his wife Emma and two sons: James aged 7 and William aged 5, and parents Simon and Helen.

Paying tribute to her husband, Emma said: "Ian will always be the centre of my life, and he will be remembered as a doting father, loving husband and a true professional soldier.

"He loved being a soldier, that's what he lived for. We are all so proud and always will be."

Lieutenant Colonel Chris Davies, commanding officer of 3rd Battalion The Mercian Regiment, said: "To lose a soldier in combat is a tragedy that hits any unit hard.

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"But to lose a warrant officer of WO2 Ian Fisher's calibre and standing in such a tight knit family regiment is a huge blow that has left the whole battalion numb.

"His reputation as a tough-talking, no nonsense sergeant major belied his quick wit and mischievous sense of humour, and his men loved him for it.

"Our thoughts are with his wife Emma, two sons, James and William, and his parents, Helen and Simon, at this most difficult of times."

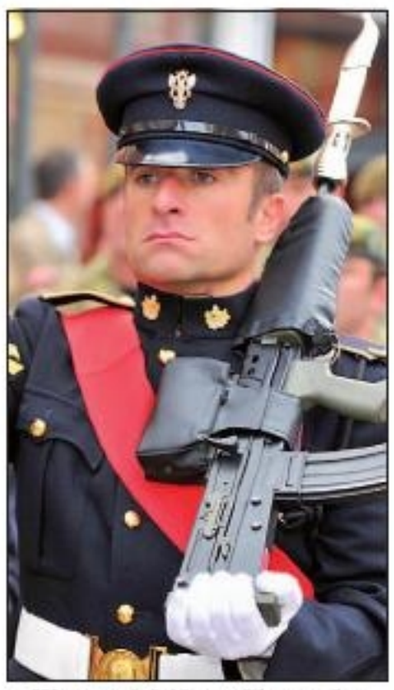
Warrant Officer Class 1 Robert Mears said: "WO2 Ian Fisher was a dependable, loyal and trustworthy man who had the respect of his peers, friends and subordinates alike.

"Ian will leave a gap in our battalion and our wider regimental family. He will be sorely missed by all as he was known for his ability, sense of humour and sheer professionalism.

The Secretary of State for Defence, Philip Hammond MP, said: "It is with great sadness that I learned of the death of WO2 Ian Fisher.

"It is clear from the tributed from his colleagues that he was an exemplary soldier who made a huge contribution to the Army over many years, on a number of operational tours.

"My thoughts and deepest condolences are with his family and friends."



• *Warrant Officer Class 2 Ian Fisher*

Mayor's Column

Axel MacDonald
Mayor of Didcot

Remembering all year round

Remember. We remember our fallen in November but remembering all those who did not return or did return but physically or psychologically injured is not just for November but all year around.

On November 30 1939, many miles from Britain, began a titanic struggle for survival. The end result may well have saved Britain from invasion.

A country with a population similar in size to Wales was invaded by the largest most modern army in the world at that time. This was a David versus Goliath conflict, one which I'm sure the Finns would have wished to avoid.

Stalin was satisfied that his army would be in Helsinki within a week. He was to be disappointed and in March 1940 a conditional surrender was signed.

Finland lost significant areas of land but retained their freedom.

The fact that a few Finns had caused such chaos to Stalin's invasion plans probably encouraged Hitler in his wish to invade Russia and hence his attention was drawn away from Britain.

There are still a number of Didcot residents who fought in WW2.

Talking to the WW2 veterans I've met in Didcot, they are always modest but having read the history of the various Divisions and units involved, these gentlemen experienced some very hard fighting.

A number of veterans who were involved in conflicts in the 40s, 50s and 60s recently came to the Cornerstone to attend the unveiling of commemorative artwork, some of which was created by pupils at Didcot Girl's school.

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Council project shows student improvement

OXFORD schools have seen an improvement in the progress of their pupils' reading and mathematics skills, following a project launched by the city council.

The Education Attainment Project has seen eight schools serving the more disadvantaged areas of Oxford take part, with the aim of narrowing the gap in attainment for children.

It is part of Oxford City Council's KRM programme, which teaches all children the key skills they need to read, write and do mathematics well.

Cllr Pat Kennedy, board member for education, said: "I am delighted that so many children are enjoying their learning and making such encouraging progress.

"Fluent reading is fundamental for achievement in many areas of life.

"The work that the council has been doing with schools in disadvantaged areas is fantastic and I hope that we continue to be rewarded with good results."

In the KRM teaching sessions, pupils are taught phonic skills, spelling, vocabulary and learning words on sight in order to read fluently.

Sessions occur three times a day for 15 minutes, and all children are included regardless of their disability and language needs to ensure they learn together.

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

As part of the programme, each school was given £8,000 worth of what are being dubbed 'real' books, in that they are not the ones used as reading scheme books within many schools.

East Oxford Primary School is one of the sites taking part in the programme, and interim executive headteacher Lisa Biggin believes it has been a success.

Figures for the school show that in the six months from January to July 2013, the average progress in reading for children in years two, three and five had more than doubled.

Ms Biggin said: "The children are enjoying the KRM programme. The injection of the 'real' books has had a high quality impact on reading opportunities.

"The school is starting implementation of the KRM writing programme shortly to target and accelerate progress further."

Youngsters given chance to find their talent

UNIPART, a name familiar with Oxford United fans, have once again combined with the football club to help unlock talent in young people.

The Cowley-based company that provides manufacturing, logistics and consultancy solutions for global companies have teamed up with Oxford United for a second year to help young people unlock their true potential.

Most fans will remember Unipart being United's shirt sponsors during the Manor days, but the two have now combined to expand the company's Talent Factory.

Paul Brooks, development director at Unipart, explained: "The intention is to, under the talent factory banner, identify future talent.

"School children will go through an experience day with Oxford United and Unipart and then what we will try to offer them is an application to do a whole weeks worth of experience with Unipart.

"From those that do the weeks work experience everyone of those will get the opportunity to apply for an apprenticeship with Unipart so that is the sort of talent progression that we are trying to do."

• *Tony Davison, Talent Factory project manager Chris Murphy, business development manager at Oxford United Peter Rhoades-Brown and Paul Brooks.*

Tony Davison, Oxford United's commercial director, added: "Unipart's commitment to helping in the community in and around Oxford ties in perfectly with some of the very exciting projects that we are looking to implement across the county."

News Bites

House fire

A HOUSE fire broke out in a Blackbird Leys property on November 5 but the quick thinking of its occupants saw them evacuate safely.

Three fire engines attended the blaze on Pegasus Road, finding smoke pouring from the first floor of the house, and extinguished the blaze.

Spires talk

LOCAL historian Julian Munby will be giving a talk to the Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT) on November 19. Mr Munby will speak about the history and development of the dreaming spires of the city over the centuries.

The talk starts at 6pm at the Key Learning Centre at Oxford Castle and costs £8 for OPT members and £12 for non-members.

Xmas online

A NEW website has been launched to help inform people of what is happening during the festive season.

The city council have created the 'Oxford's Christmas' website to help guide people through events and activities on offer.

Some of the events include unique late night viewings of museums, galleries, theatres, Oxford Castle and the Town Hall.

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Pop-up shop is set for Bicester town centre

A NEW 'pop-up shop' is coming to Bicester today and tomorrow, offering help and advice about apprenticeships for young people and their families.

The Oxfordshire Apprenticeships scheme will be setting up at the Crown Walk shopping centre, and people are being urged to drop in and find out more about potential career opportunities.

Oxfordshire County Council will also be at the site, to offer advice to potential employers interested in taking on an apprentice.

Cllr Melinda Tilley, cabinet member for children, education and families, said: "Record numbers of young people have started an apprenticeship in Oxfordshire during the past year and are seeing the benefits of earning while they learn.

"There is a wider choice of good quality, local apprenticeships than ever before, with options to suit a host of different interests.

"I would urge anyone to come along and find out more."

The shop itself has been fitted out by youngsters on construction pre-apprenticeship courses at Kidlington-based ACE Training.

By Adam Flinn
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Emma Forbes from ACE Training said: "The Apprentice Shop idea is a really innovative way to get school leavers excited about apprenticeships. Experience counts for everything in today's job market and apprenticeships give you an NVQ as well as a paid job. Our apprentices are thriving in construction trades, from small carpentry firms to large brickwork specialists.

"Many of them didn't achieve well at GCSE and are proving that you don't have to succeed at school to excel at work."

Following on from the pop-up shop in Bicester, small businesses will also have a chance to find out about apprenticeships, in an event to be held in Woodstock on Tuesday.

It is taking place at the Marlborough Enterprise Centre from 9.45am to 11.45am, and will also be giving advice to sixth form students at The Marlborough School. For more information about both events, go to www.oxfordshireskillsboard.org/apprenticeships.

The day when Kryten met humanoid Artie

ACTOR Robert Llewellyn visited Oxford Brookes University last week, and was given the chance to meet a life-sized humanoid robot Artie.

Robert, most famous for playing Kryten in the sitcom Red Dwarf, was at Brookes to talk to digital media students about his experiences in the media industry on and off camera.

He later visited the department's new Cognitive Robotics Laboratory to meet Artie, a 'RoboThespian' created by Engineered Arts in Cornwall.

Artie is part of the department's research in human-robot interaction, allowing students to apply their understanding of programming to the control of sophisticated robots.

Writing on Twitter, Robert said: "Had the bizarre pleasure of meeting Mr RoboThespian. He's an amazing chap.

"He is spookily able, his eyes and head follow you around the room. He'll say whatever you type."

• *Robert Llewellyn meets Artie the 'RoboThespian'*

Robert has other links to Brookes, as he took part in a large-scale trial of electric vehicles to assess driver behaviour.

The national project involved the university's Psychology Department, who spoke with hundreds of drivers of electric vehicles about their driving experiences.

News Bites

Clock under the hammer

A RARE Oxfordshire clock is set to be sold in Yorkshire in the next few days, with an estimated guide price of between £25,000 and £30,000.

The clock was made by John Knibb, a former Mayor of Oxford who worked as a clockmaker in the city in the 17th century, with this example dating between 1685 to 1690.

It will be sold either tomorrow or Saturday by Tennants Auctioneers at their centre in Leyburn, North Yorkshire.

Charity award

A WOODSTOCK-BASED charity has won the prestigious Rochdale Pioneers Award for an outstanding contribution to the global co-operative movement.

The Plunkett Foundation helps rural communities through co-operation, with initiatives like setting up community-run shops and pubs alongside a range of food and farming co-opeartives.

The charity's chief executive, Peter Couchman, said: "We are honoured to receive the award and to be the first organisation to be recognised in the way by the international co-operative movement."

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Customer Deposit	£1,838.57	Facility Fee	£10
Deposit Allowance	£250	Purchase Fee	£10
Cash Price	£12,125	Excess Mileage Charge	6p Per Mile
Total Charge for Credit	£801.57	Duration of Agreement	25 Months
Optional Final Payment/GMFV	£6,302	Borrowing rate fixed APR Representative	3.99% 4.9%

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Men without country...

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

SOUTH Wales duo Man Without Country perform in Oxford on Sunday evening, showcasing their atmospheric sound, heavy bass and powerful vocals.

Made up of Tomas Greenhalf and Ryan James, the group take influence from Scandinavian artists including The Knife, When Saints Go Machine and The Field.

Speaking about the band's music, Tomas said: "You don't know whether to dance to us or just listen to it, and wallow in it.

"The music is often moody, dark and melancholic, usually in minor keys, but there are also some uplifting passages which emphasise the poignancy of the lyrics."

Tomas and Ryan met on a popular music degree in 2006, with both admitting to each other the only reason they had joined the course was to find other musicians.

Ryan's love of music came when he was a teenager, with a love of the metal music of Death Cab For Cutie and The Postal Service.

"That's when I first realised the sort of music that was my calling, and that I wanted to sing," said Ryan.

"I hadn't realised before how creative and upfront you could be with lyrics and poetry, which took me down a different road.

"Some lyrics are more personal, and some are more ambiguous than others."

The pair exchanged a number of emails with snippets of audio attached, before taking it one step further and renting a rehearsal space.

Their debut album Foe soon followed, with help from renowned producer Ken Thomas, who had agreed to mix the album for them.

Tomas said: "We'd never had any outside involvement in our work, so it was good to have an impartial point of view to bring a fresh perspective on the music.

"Ken's work with punk and post-punk bands is also relevant to the outcome of Foe. We wanted that edge and energy, to prevent the songs from sounding too clean and clinical."

Sunday's show starts at 7pm, and tickets cost £6.

For more information, go to www.o2academyoxford.co.uk or call 0844 477 2000.

• *Man Without Country perform in Oxford on Sunday (Picture by Robert Bellamy)*

Sing along!

A WORKSHOP giving people the opportunity to sing with a group of other willing participants is being staged at Didcot Cornerstone on Saturday.

The session includes vocal exercises, and songs are taught by ear. Go to www.cornerstone-arts.org or phone 01235 515144 for more details.

All that jazz

A COLLECTION of Europe's finest jazz players and composers perform at Oxford's North Wall Arts Centre on Sunday.

Music comes from the Schlippenbach Trio, led by premier jazz bandleader Alexander von Schlippenbach, and Noszferatu, made up of Finn Peters, Ivo de Greef and Damien Harron.

The show begins at 8pm, tickets are £14. Call 01865 319450 or go to www.thenorthwall.com.

Texas are back

FOLLOWING the release of their eighth studio album 'The Conversation', Scottish rock/pop band Texas return with their full UK tour, which comes to Oxford's New Theatre on Sunday evening.

The group have sold over 30 million albums worldwide in their 25 years in the industry, and the new album is the first to be released in eight years.

Tickets for the show start from £41.90 for a 7pm start. For booking details, go to www.newtheatreoxford.org.uk or call 0844 871 3020.

Rollin' Clones

TRIBUTE act to one of the most influential rock and roll bands of all time, the Rollin' Clones present their new show at Banbury's Mill Arts Centre tomorrow evening.

As well as performing all the favourites, the Rollin' Clones offer an accurate delivery of how a classic Stones gig feels to anyone who has never witnessed the original line-up play.

It starts at 8pm, and costs £12 in advance. Booking information can be found by calling 01295 297002 or going online to www.themillartscentre.co.uk.

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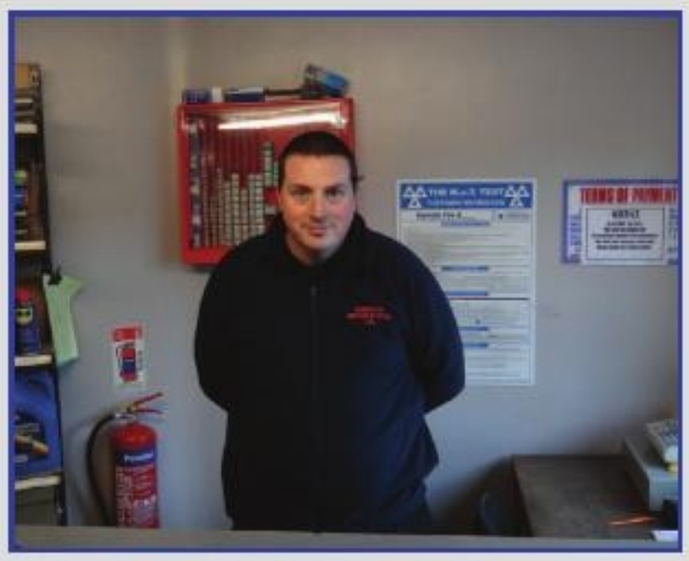

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Lured into a Deathtrap!

The Gondoliers

WOODLEY Light Operatic Society perform The Gondoliers, the story of two recently-married Venetians, which comes to Henley's Kenton Theatre from Wednesday.

Five performances of The Gondoliers will be staged. For a full list of show times and booking information, go to www.kentontheatre.co.uk or call 01491 575698.

Gary Numan

GARY Numan comes to the Oxford O2 Academy tomorrow evening, following the release of his brand new album 'Splinter'.

He is best known for his electro-punk anthem 'Cars' and the hugely influential album 'The Pleasure Principle', and performs a mix of hits from his back catalogue.

The show starts at 7pm, and tickets cost £25. For more details, go to www.o2academyoxford.co.uk or call 0844 477 2000.

By **Adam Flinn**
adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk

OXFORDSHIRE-BASED theatre company AmEgos are staging a production of Ira Levin's classic comedy thriller Deathtrap, on until Saturday in Wantage.

The comedy thriller holds the record for being the longest-running production of its genre, and has previously been adapted into a film starring Christopher Reeve and Michael Caine.

Abingdon actor Stephen Rees stars as Sidney Bruhl, while Wantage's Suzanne Parrott plays the part of his on-stage wife Myra.

Stephen said: "I appeared in AmEgos debut production 'The Rise and Fall of Little Voice', where I played the small town music promoter Ray Say, so was thrilled to get the part of Sidney in this fabulous thriller.

"Both Ray and Sidney were parts that have been played by Michael Caine in the film adaptations of these plays.

"Although the two characters are quite different, they are both prepared to scheme and engineer events to get success and they won't let anyone get in their way."

• *Stephen Rees and Suzanne Parrott star in Deathtap, staged in Wantage until Saturday*

Suzanne added: "I knew quite a few of the AmEgos before I joined them for their debut production.

"I played Sadie, the quiet, lonely neighbour and although it's quite a gritty play, we had such a laugh rehearsing and performing it.

"I wasn't able to take a part in the next production, the musical 'The Pajama Game', but agreed to be the stage manager.

"Then unfortunately one of the lead characters broke her hip in show week, and I stood in her at the vary last minute. It was quite hair-raising, but I loved it.

"So I was absolutely thrilled when I was offered the part of Myra in Deathtrap. The play is an edge of the seat thriller, with some great comic flashes, twists and turns to keep you guessing."

All shows take place at Shush! The Venue, starting at 7.30pm tonight and tomorrow and at 6pm on Saturday.

For more details, go to www.amegostheatre.com.

Sir, With Love

OXFORD Playhouse presents To Sir, With Love, the story of ex-RAF pilot Ricky Braithwaite who experiences what it means to be black in post-war England.

The role of Ricky is played by Ansu Kabia, while the headmaster is performed by former Stars in Their Eyes host Matthew Kelly for the Friday and Saturday evening shows.

Tickets start from £21.50, and the show runs from Tuesday until the following Saturday. Go to www.oxfordplayhouse.com or phone 01865 305305 for more information.

The Italian job

ITALIAN composer and pianist Ludovico Einaudi brings his evocative music to Oxford's New Theatre tonight, performing pieces he has written for more than 20 films.

Describing his music, he said: "There is something in it that comes from classical, but I have influences from different music I have experienced in my life, from African music to folk and rock."

Tickets start from £33.40 for a 7.30pm start. Go to www.newtheatreoxford.org.uk or call 0844 871 3020 to book.

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Holywell Music Room, Oxford
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The Clerks present a unique cutting edge combined performance and research project, with music by Christopher Fox and tests by scientists from the University of Cambridge, supported by the Wellcome Trust.
www.talesfrombabel.co.uk

15 Nov 2013, 8:30pm - 1:30am
Market Place, Abingdon
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0871 472 0400 www.glee.co.uk/oxford

15 Nov 2013, 8pm - 10pm
Jacqueline du Pré Music Building
ZOE RAHMAN (JAZZ PIANO)
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www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

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16 - 17 Nov, 10:30am - 4pm
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16 Nov 2013, 7:30pm - 9:30pm
Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford, OX1 3DP
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17 Nov, 3pm
Henley Town Hall
ALLEN DIGITAL THEATRE ORGAN - CHIHO SUNAMOTO & JON SMITH
£7 concessions £6.50
www.henleyorgantrust.org.uk

18 Nov 2013, 5pm - 6:30pm
Albion Beatnik Bookstore
BOOK LAUNCH: A MAN AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF FLAMES BY PAUL HOGGART
"Historian James Appleby uncovers a dangerous secret hidden deep in a chest of 400 year-old documents. To his horror, its discovery ignites a global firestorm that threatens to engulf all that he loves. As Appleby's research inspires a worldwide movement, his enemies begin a murderous hunt fromamsterdam to Washington, New York and all over England. Scorched by the embers of his marriage and his weakness for extra-marital affairs, Appleby finds out just how dangerous ideas can be."
759847553

19 Nov 2013 - 23 Nov
Oxford Playhouse
TO SIR, WITH LOVE
This adaptation features songs and dances from the late 1940s, joyously performed by members of the local Oxford community. The role of teacher Ricky is played by Ansu Kabia (acclaimed RSC Ensemble member) and headmaster Florian is played by Olivier Award-winning actor Matthew Kelly for certain performances.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

20 Nov 2013, 8pm
Comrades Club, Newbury Street, Wantage
RICHARD LEACH'S 7 STARS OF JAZZ
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21 Nov 2013 - 23 Nov
The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury
CALENDAR GIRLS
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01295 279 002 www.themillartscentre.co.uk

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22 Nov 2013, 8:30pm
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www.oxfordlivejazz.com

23 Nov - 24 Nov, 10:30am - 4pm
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23 Nov 2013, 7:30pm
Queen Mary's Hall, QMC
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24 Nov 2013, 2pm
Cornerstone, Didcot
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www.cornerstone-arts.org

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CALENDAR GIRLS
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01295 279 002 www.themillartscentre.co.uk

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28 Nov, 8pm
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www.wegottickets.com/event/226103 28 Nov 2013, 8pm Fat Lil's Witney John Smith with support from Dennis Ellsworth + The Epstein "John Smith is the guitar man from Devon who has quietly become one of the most exciting voices on the new British folk scene. Touring relentlessly as headliner and support act, he has opened shows for John Martyn, Iron and Wine, Seth Lakeman, David Gray, Cara Dillon, Jools Holland, Martin Simpson & Gil Scott-Heron. £7 available from Rapture in Witney / Truck Store in Oxford www.wegottickets.com/event/226103"

29 Nov 2013 - 12 January
Oxford Playhouse
ROBIN HOOD
This Christmas Robin Hood sees the return of Peter Duncan with his eighth Playhouse pantomime.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

29 Nov 2013 - 30 Nov
Glee Club Oxford
FREDRIK ANDERSSON, GAVIN WEBSTER, RORY O'HANLON, THE NOISE NEXT DOOR (FRI), JOJO SMITH (SAT)
Swedish TV comedy hero and writer Fredrik Andersson has come to take the UK by storm.
0871 472 0400 www.glee.co.uk/oxford

30 Nov, 8:20pm - 11pm
The Wheatsheaf, Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES
20.45 Jeff Wode
21.30 Ya OK Yeah
22.15 Strength Of The Bear
£4.50 on the door, cheaper at www.wegottickets.com/event/240227 www.gappytooth.com

30 Nov, 7:30pm
Cornerstone, Didcot
BETRAYAL
""Betrayal" shares married Emma's secret; a 7 year affair with her husband's best friend. We are delighted to welcome back London Classic Theatre and it's director, Michael Cabot, with this production.
Michael has a wealth of experience in directing Pinter plays and really understands what Pinter was trying to achieve in his writing.
£14.50, £13 (concs)" www.cornerstone-arts.org

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Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway
MEET SANTA ON THE STEAM TRAIN SPECIALS
Enjoy a nostalgic steam train trip from Chinnor on 1st, 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 21st & 22nd December. Santa will be on every train handing out presents to the children and seasonal refreshments will be available to everyone. Trains depart at 10.15, 11.30, 13.00, 14.15 and 15.30. The return journey takes approximately 45 minutes and costs £11 for adults and £10 for children (includes a present from Santa). Advance booking only with individual reserved seats. For information and to book please see www.chinnorrailway.co.uk/santaspecials
www.chinnorrailway.co.uk/santaspecials

1 Dec 2013, 8pm - 9:15pm
Jacqueline du Pré Music Building
MASH ADVENT WASSAIL
A new and interesting take on the old carols and wassails
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

2 Dec 2013, 7pm - 9pm
Barton, Oxford
PUBLIC MEETING
The Thames Valley's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Anthony Stansfeld, will be holding a public meeting
01865 846780

5 Dec 2013, 8pm - 9:30pm
Jacqueline du Pré Music Building
DANIEL TONG (PIANO)
Daniel Tong plays piano works by Haydn and Beethoven
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

7 Dec 2013, 7:30pm - 9:30pm
University Church of St Mary - OX1 4BJ
HANDEL'S MESSIAH BY CANDLELIGHT
Eboracum Baroque visit Oxford to perform Handel's celebrated work, Messiah. Relax in the run up to Christmas with this candlelit performance from some of the top young singers and instrumentalists in the UK. Eboracum Baroque are an exciting group of young musicians performing all across the UK. They have performed in Cambridge, London and York and have taken two hugely succesful shows to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2012 and 2013 receiving rave reviews. Tickets: £10, £8 (concessions) and £5 Students
Available at www.eboracumbaroque.co.uk 07547933704/eboracumbaroque@gmail.com/www.eboracumbaroque.co.uk

7 Dec 2013, 7pm - 8:30pm
Jacqueline du Pré Music Building
HAYDN PIANO TRIOS
Matthew Truscott, Robin Michael, Daniel Tong
www.st-hildas.ox.ac.uk/jdp 01865 286660

7 Dec 2013 - 8 December, 10:30am - 3:30pm
Denman, Marcham
CHRISTMAS FAIR AND REAL JAM FESTIVAL
A fun family event with a festive market, Santa's grotto, mulled wine and mince pies.
w: www.wirealjamfestival.com t: 01865 391 991

7 Dec 2013, 7:30pm
Drayton Village Hall
COUNTRY MUSIC NIGHT
(& Christmas Buffet, Mulled Wine, etc) with two live acts, Tony Collins and Clear Cut.
01865 341778 www.draytonvh.co.uk

8 December, 3pm
Henley Town Hall
ALLEN DIGITAL THEATRE ORGAN - ELIZABETH HARRISON
£7 concessions £6.50
www.henleyorgantrust.org.uk

12 Dec 2013 - 31 December
Burton Taylor Studio
FATHER CHRISTMAS AND THE ICICLE BICYCLE
Young children and their families will experience stories, festive songs and decoration making, whilst getting the exciting opportunity to meet Father Christmas and his team in this interactive adventure written and directed by Helen Eastman.
www.oxfordplayhouse.com

12 Dec 2013
Oxford O2 Academy
THE BAD SHEPHERDS
ADRIAN EDMONDSON'S celebrated folk-punk outfit
"0844 477 2000 www.o2academyoxford.co.uk"

13 Dec 2013, 8pm - 11:30pm
The Wheatsheaf, High St, Oxford
GAPPY TOOTH INDUSTRIES' WINTER WARMER EVENT
"Flights Of Helios, The Mighty Redox, Vote Statham, Lewis Newcombe
£5 on the door, or cheaper from www.wegottickets.com/event244176" www.gappytooth.com

13 Dec 2013
carswell Golf and Country Club
LIVE JAZZ IN OXFORDSHIRE CHRISTMAS DINNER
Christmas Dinner followed by music from the Zoë Schwarz Blue Commotion. The band is a six-piece line-up that plays music from the jazzier end of the blues spectrum. Its members are renowned as performers in their own right. Dinner Followed by Music bookings must be placed by Nov 30th but Music Only Bookings may be taken for a further week.
www.oxfordlivejazz.com or 01367 718903

13 Dec 2013, 8pm
Wallingford Town Hall
WALLINGFORD HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY TALK
"By Paul Smith. He will present ' Evidence from recent archaeological investigations in Oxfordshire'. Visitors (£3) are most welcome."
www.twhas.org.uk

OXFORD SDA CHURCH WITH CROSS CULTURE MEDIA PRESENT

OXFORD
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WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY MERVYN WEIR

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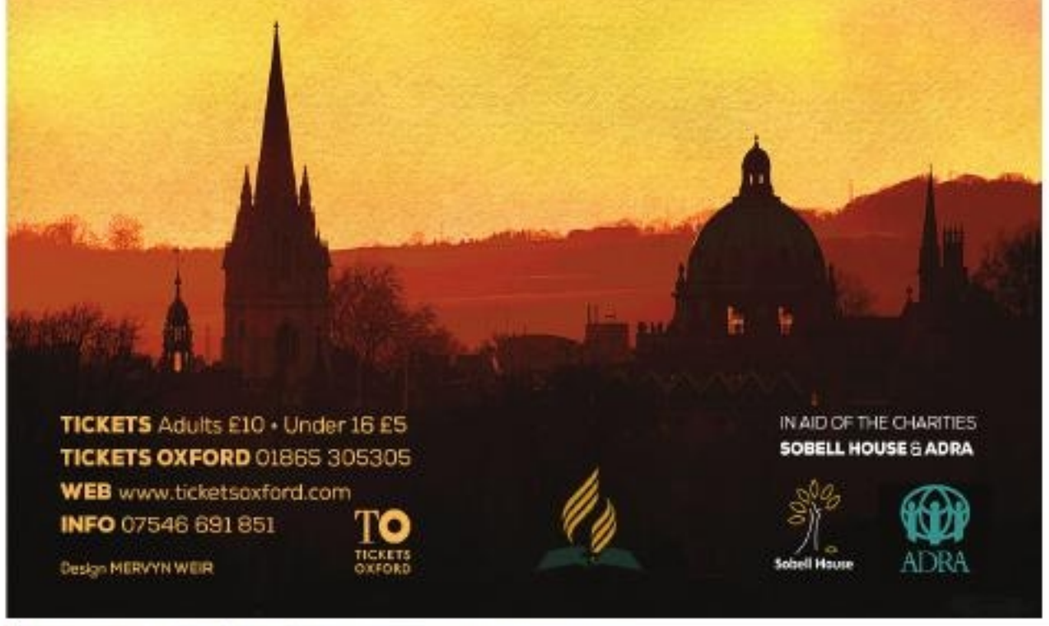
OXFORD GOSPEL EVENTS CHOIR

BY FAITH ACAPELLA

ALICIA SADDLER



TICKETS Adults £10 • Under 16 £5
TICKETS OXFORD 01865 305305
WEB www.ticketsoxford.com
INFO 07546 691 851
Design MERVYN WEIR

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Email: victoriaarms@wadworth.co.uk
Website: www.victoriaarms.co.uk

CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Available 21st November - 11th January
Come and join us for your Christmas celebrations

STARTERS
Ham hock terrine with rustic bread & piccalilli
Chilli, sweet potato & butternut squash soup with rustic bread (v)
Mushroom, pea & mozzarella risotto cake with a tomato relish (v)
Beetroot gravadlax with roasted beetroot, sour cream, dill pollen & mustard

MAINS
Roasted British turkey breast with bacon wrapped sausages, stuffing & a rich gravy
Smoked haddock fillet on wilted spinach with a poached egg & glazed with a cheese & chervil sauce
Slow braised beef cheek with roasted shallot, chestnut mushroom, crispy pancetta & garlic crouton & creamy mash
Char-grilled swordfish with lemon & caper butter with buttered new potatoes & a green salad
Goat's cheese Wellington with cashew nuts & butternut squash wrapped in puff pastry with a courgette Provençale (v)
Main courses are served with crispy roast potatoes or buttered new potatoes & a selection of seasonal winter vegetables

PUDDINGS
Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy sauce
Chocolate fudge brownie with pistachio ice cream & berry compote
Citrus tart with honey crème fraîche
Selection of great British cheeses with biscuits, celery, grapes & chutney
Three Courses £18.95 • Two Courses £14.95

WELCOME TO WADWORTHSHIRE

CHRISTMAS DAY

FOUR COURSE MEAL
Let us do the hard work for you this Christmas Day

STARTERS
Artichoke, pea & mint soup with crème fraîche & crispy croutons & rustic bread (v)
Rabbit & pistachio nut terrine with rocket, crostini & spiced orange chutney
Rillette of salmon with a herb salad & garlic crostini
Honey baked figs & Manchego cheese rocket salad with a honey balsamic dressing (v)
Cullen skink - smoked haddock & potato soup with rustic bread

MAINS
Roasted British turkey with bacon wrapped sausages, stuffing, cranberries & a rich gravy
Gilthead bream on a chorizo, saffron & sun-blushed tomato risotto
Grilled sirloin steak on the bone with a garlic buttered crevette, parsnip crisps & béarnaise sauce
Baked salmon with a pine nut & watercress crust with a prawn sauce
Winter vegetable dauphinoise with Cropwell Bishop Stilton crust, caramelised shallots & port jus (v)
Main courses are served with crispy roast potatoes or buttered new potatoes & a selection of seasonal winter vegetables

PUDDINGS
Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy sauce
Mango, lime & passion fruit mousse with a ginger shortbread
Chocolate truffle torte with a winter berry sauce
Plum and frangipane tart with vanilla cream
Selection of great British cheeses with biscuits, celery, grapes & chutney
Four courses (with sorbet) £49.95

THE SOBELL
Christmas
GIFT FAIR 2013
AT RADLEY COLLEGE

Saturday 23rd November 10am - 5.00pm
Sunday 24th November 10am - 4.30pm

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Puzzles

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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

		7	6		2			4
	2		7	4		3		9
5		8	9			6		
	6		4	3			8	
	1	5				4	3	
8	3			6	5		7	
		2			4	5		8
4		3		8	6			
9			5		1	2		

3		5		6		8		7
	2		4		5		1	
	9						4	
2				4				9
			1		6			
9				8				3
	8						9	
	6		7		8		3	
5		4		1		7		2

	6				2		9	8
2					6	5		
7		1					6	
8			2					
		4				3		
					3			9
	5					1		6
		2	8					4
4	9		5				7	

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

1 Orator (7)
5 Anything giving great pleasure (5)
8 Drop (4)
9 Contrary (8)
10 Reluctance (13)
13 Man-eating giant (4)
14 Immense (4)
17 Inquiring into (13)
19 Most spacious (8)
20 Cut off (4)
21 Gloomy (5)
22 Entreaties (7)

Quick Clues Down

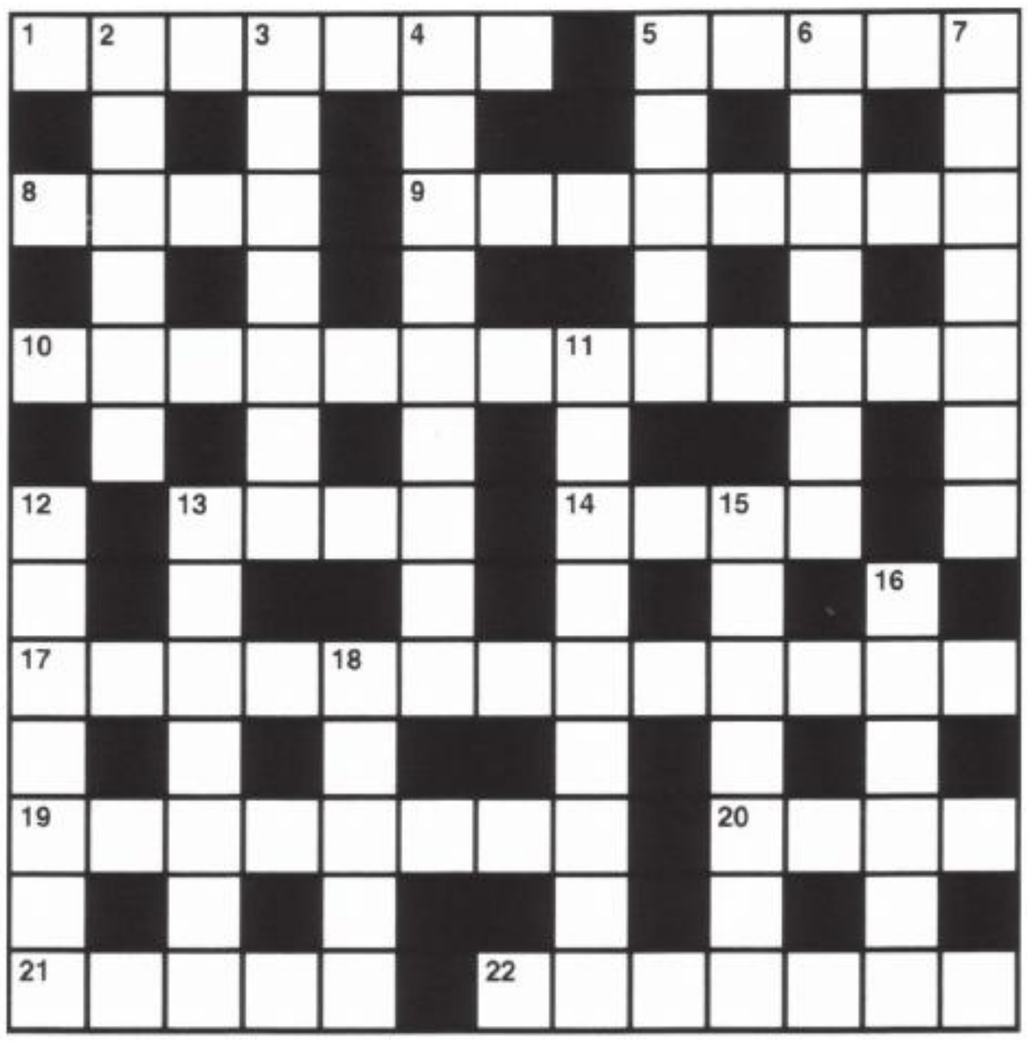
2 Tracts of level country (6)
3 Uniting (7)
4 Softening (9)
5 Strip of leather (5)
6 Clear (7)
7 Locks of hair (7)
11 Steersman (9)
12 Mixed (7)
13 Easily understood (7)
15 Convince (7)
16 Reply (6)
18 Slippery (5

Cryptic Clues Across

1 I try aid for the drought condition (7)
5 Established as in a plot (5)
8 Cream of sounds? (4)
9 I have water and rum in the goldfish bowl (8)
10 Then drums sort out the atmosphere disturbances (13)
13 Appear from these embarrassing moments (4)
14 Shoot back with one on the peak (4)
17 One who believes in always giving thanks before meals? (7,6)
19 Less usual to find a foreigner (8)
20 Carry the animal (4)
21 But not necessarily a tree that was planted earlier (5)
22 Renew the French sheen (7)

Cryptic Clues Down

2 Outlines the plans for part of the golf course (6)
3 Disturb the grandee (7)
4 Take back the skill of the French man as a shopkeeper (9)
5 Will the second-rate survive the explosion? (5)
6 Sound pleased it's mounting the footrest (7)
7 Mad to go back, and inquires for the linens (7)
11 One who always hesitates to speak. (9)
12 I'm too old-fashioned for this deadlock (7)
13 Looked about right, so took the leading role (7)
15 Serving several purposes in public transport (7)
16 I chatter about the robber (6)
18 The man who is satisfied at five hundred going to the front? (5)



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

5	8	2	7	3	4	6	1	9
9	6	3	2	5	1	7	4	8
4	7	1	9	8	6	2	5	3
6	9	4	1	7	5	3	8	2
3	1	8	4	9	2	5	6	7
7	2	5	8	6	3	4	9	1
2	4	6	3	1	8	9	7	5
8	5	7	6	2	9	1	3	4
1	3	9	5	4	7	8	2	6

5	6	3	1	7	9	4	8	2
1	7	4	2	8	3	6	9	5
9	8	2	6	4	5	3	1	7
2	3	8	5	9	6	1	7	4
7	1	6	3	2	4	9	5	8
4	5	9	7	1	8	2	6	3
6	2	1	8	3	7	5	4	9
3	4	7	9	5	1	8	2	6
8	9	5	4	6	2	7	3	1

7	4	2	3	8	5	6	1	9
1	5	8	9	6	2	4	3	7
6	9	3	1	4	7	8	5	2
3	8	1	2	7	9	5	6	4
9	7	4	8	5	6	1	2	3
2	6	5	4	1	3	7	9	8
5	1	9	7	2	8	3	4	6
8	3	6	5	9	4	2	7	1
4	2	7	6	3	1	9	8	5

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Substantial 9 Pan 10 Professed 11 Repel 13 Natural 14 Trance 16 Sedate 18 Operate 19 Vista 20 Axiomatic 21 Owe 22 Reprocessed

Down: 2 Urn 3 Sepal 4 Amount 5 Trestle 6 Austrians 7 Operational 8 Adulterated 12 Peacetime 15 Charmer 17 Hectic 19 Vices 21 Ode

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Concessions 9 Sit 10 Protector 11 Ovoid 13 Rations 14 Litter 16 Salaam 18 Knitted 19 Reset 20 Intending 21 Ego 22 Adventurers

Down: 2 Oat 3 Coped 4 Scours 5 Inertia 6 Nationals 7 As you like it 8 Presumption 12 Outwitted 15 Entente 17 Adrift 19 Roger 21 Err

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Friday and Saturday evenings available throughout December for Christmas Parties
£25.00 per person for a 3 course buffet and disco until midnight

Christmas Day Lunch
Take a break from all the work of preparing Christmas lunch for the family. Relax with friends and family in the Stream Restaurant and let our Chefs do all the cooking ... and cleaning!
Christmas Day Lunch Buffet £35.00 per person

STREAM BAR & RESTAURANT
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P: 01235 522536 F: 01235 555182
info@upperreaches-abingdon.co.uk
Www.upperreaches-abingdon.co.uk

Don't leave it till the last minute

WITH less than six weeks to go, the biggest holiday season of the year is coming round fast

So to stave off those last minute Christmas rush around, and desperate calls to fully booked venues its better to get the ball rolling as early as possible.

Even in October when the summer sun is occasionally popping up for a cameo appearance getting bookings made for that Christmas bash or hotel stay for any visiting relatives is vitally important to avoid disappointment.

Right then, it's deadline time, what do you do? First off, assuming you haven't booked yet start looking through these pages and try to get ideas for what you want to do and then get on the phone.

The one booking that all of us seem to get involved in is the Christmas party or the meal out. Whether it is for workmates, family, or friends the basic rules are the same, you have to try to find something that appeals to everyone.

Friends and family should be easy to organise but the guys and girls you work with can be more of a problem.

A few basic guidelines should be adhered to.

Where to go is the big question. Almost certainly, you'll want to find a venue that is near to work.

Don't forget that many if not all attending will not be driving so it needs to be convenient for taxis, buses or walking. If you're planning on staying in one venue all evening, then it should also be convenient for people getting home later. If the party is going to carry on to other venues afterwards, then you may need to find somewhere centrally located for more bar and club options.

And how big? You'll need a room that can fit in everyone comfortably. Cram them

• *Continues on page 30*

The Ferryman Inn
Bablock Hythe, Northmoor, Oxford
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www.theferrymaninn.co.uk

2 riverside bars and restaurant for 45
6 ensuite bedrooms
Function room for 250 or 150 seated opening onto terrace and lawn to river
Good pub food with Wadworth Beers to cask marque standard
Skittle alley £8.50 per head including meal
Senior Citizens every Thursday (special menu)

Roasts every Sunday
2 courses £9.75 3 courses £11.75
We only use freshly sourced produce. Home made Yorkshire puddings and real gravy! Booking advisable.

FULL CHRISTMAS MENU
offering Christmas Fayre
from turkey sandwiches to
a 3 course meal!

Enjoy a bit of
GLITZ & GLAMOUR
at Oxford Thames
this Christmas

Festive Lunches	from £15.95
Sunday Lunch with Santa	from £16.95
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For bookings or more information call
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www.four-pillars.co.uk/thames

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Henley Road, Sandford on Thames, Oxford, OX4 4GX

oxy oriental
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Unit 6, Ozone Leisure Park, Grenoble Road, Oxford OX4 4XP

Merry Christmas

☆ Christmas carvery
☆ Lucky dip gift for all kids
☆ Promotional drinks

Lunch from £6.95 pp*
Evening from £13.50 pp*

* Weekend lunch price £7.95, Fri-Sat evening £14.50
Promotional discounts are not valid during December period

THE OXFORD HOTEL
OXFORD

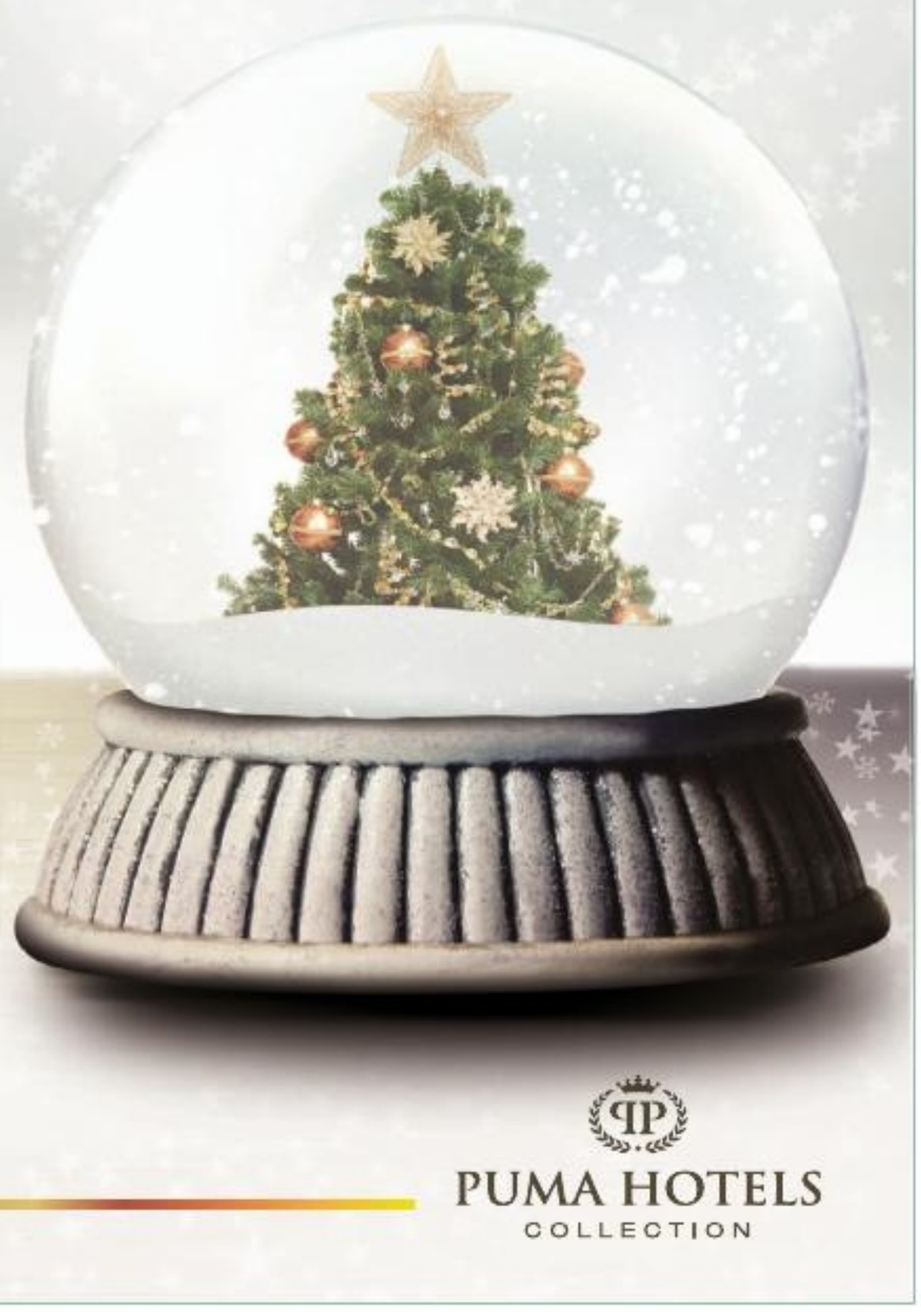
SHAKING THINGS UP THIS FESTIVE SEASON

An exciting mix of Christmas and New Year packages awaits you.

From a pre-Christmas Cocktail Party, office party or a traditional dinner with friends and family we'll provide you with everything you need, leaving plenty of time to relax and enjoy yourselves.

PRICES FROM £29.95 PER GUEST
incl. 3-Course Festive Menu, Disco and Wine

- Disco party nights
- Festive disco party lunches
- Private parties
- New Year's Eve gala dinner dance



Call **01865 489933**
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Visit **pumahotels.co.uk/Christmas**

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IDEAL VENUE FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY
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NEW YEAR'S EVE FANCY DRESS PARTY!
5 course dinner, music, entertainment & dance
8pm until late
£20 per head *(Advanced bookings only)*

INTRODUCING SUNDAY SPECIAL
Bring your own drinks! (evenings only)

JANUARY SPECIAL
Dine for **under £10** during the month of January
- 7 days a week

TRIBUTE NIGHTS
Coming in December, February & March!
3 course dinner & entertainment
£17.50 per head.
Please call for more information

WEDNESDAY SPECIAL
Dine for £12.95 get the 2nd for 50% discount

TAKEAWAY SERVICE AVAILABLE

Open 7 days a week
Sat/Sun 12-4pm = £7.50 per head* | Fri/Sat 4.45pm - 10.30pm = £13.50 per head*
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* Children under 12 = 50% discount, under 4's = FREE!

Aziz Express @ Ozone
Ozone Leisure & Entertainment Park Grenoble Road Oxford OX4 4XP
Tel: 01865 395870 | www.azizexpress.co.uk

BAR & BRASSERIE
·BROWNS·
FESTIVE SEASON

5-11 Woodstock Road Oxford OX2 6HA
Tel: 01865 511995

Christmas Day ~ three courses for £70

CHILDREN £30

Starters

Oyster Mushroom Velouté (v) white truffle oil, crème fraiche and crusty bread
Ham Hock & Pea Terrine celeriac & apple remoulade, balsamic vinaigrette, rhubarb & tomato chutney with cinnamon brioche
Gravadlax of Salmon poached free range egg, asparagus & chervil hollandaise served with granary bread & butter
Roasted Goat's Cheese (v) herb crust, tomato salsa, pomegranate and soused golden beetroot
Warm Salad of Prosciutto Wrapped Chicken with watermelon, cinnamon croutons and a honey mustard dressing

Mains

Roast Turkey rolled breast with an orange & cranberry stuffing served with pigs in blankets and a cranberry gravy
Homemade Beef Wellington seared heart of fillet, rolled with a mushroom duxelle then wrapped in pastry and baked to order and served with a Madeira jus (supplement £2.50)
Roast Breast of Spiced Barbary Duck braised pink cabbage and a red wine & blackcurrant sauce
Roast Rack of Herb & Garlic Crusted English Lamb aubergine compote and basil jus
Fresh Half of Lobster & Scallop Thermidor oven roasted vine cherry tomatoes
Chestnut, Cranberry & Brie Wellington (v)
all served with roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Puddings

Kumquat Stuffed Christmas Pudding brandy sauce
Salted Caramel Cheesecake with an orange & cranberry crème fraiche
Browns Christmas Eton Mess roasted plums, cinnamon, orange soaked cranberries and chestnuts
Lemon Tart topped with toasted pine nuts, served with passion fruit coulis
Black Forest Trifle steeped in cherry brandy
Selection of British Cheeses celery, grapes & crackers
Petit Fours • Coffee

All our food is prepared in a kitchen where nuts, gluten & other allergens are present & our menu descriptions do not include all ingredients - if you have a food allergy, please let us know before ordering. Full allergen information is available. An optional service charge of 12.5% will be added to all tables, which goes directly to the team who serve you. All prices include VAT at the current rate.

• *Continued from page 28*

all into a place that's too small and you'll no doubt start to see people leave half-way through the evening. On the other hand, a place too big will see the group start to separate into clicky groups.

Try to check out the venue on a busy weekend night to see how it feels with different groups of people sharing the place.

Food can be a tricky call to make. Some will try anything, some are more set in their ways and probably don't want their first experience of Sushi to be at the Xmas bash. Most restaurants, bars, and pubs have a range of meals outside their speciality, especially at Christmas so get copies of the menus faxed or emailed to you and get them approved early on by those attending.

And most importantly - price. Whether you're in charge of the money or just booking it for everyone, it's a fair bet that you'll have a set budget for the party. Not everyone has the same amount of money to spend so you will need to find a venue that provides value for money, and arrange natural breaks in the evening so anyone who has spent enough doesn't feel they look bad by leaving with everyone else still there.

You can be sure that among the venues in this feature you will find the perfect one to make your celebrations go off with a bang.

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MEAL DEALS FOR PARTIES £13.50/person or £15.00/person with dessert

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NEW MENU WITH VERY MANY NEW TASTY CHOICES

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حلال

Dare to book early

Dare you miss our Christmas celebrations at Malmaison? We are now taking bookings for our incredible Celebrations menu, served as lunch or dinner in our stunning Brasserie or seductive Private Dining Rooms from 25th November until 24th December.

WIN

Christmas presents from Malmaison

Book any table or private room up to the value of £750 for a chance to win a **complimentary bed and breakfast** stay at **Malmaison Oxford** in the new year.

OR

Book any table or private room over the value of £750 for a chance to win **Malmaison on Day Release**. Wow your guests at home with a **dinner party cooked** by a **Malmaison Senior Chef**, with cocktails supplied by the **Malmaison Oxford Bar Manager**. All waited upon by the **Brasserie Manager** and **General Manager**.*

Malmaison's 12 DARES of Christmas

To book, call

0844 693 0659

events.oxford@malmaison.com

www.malmaison.com

*Party must be taken in January at an OX postcode – food and beverage included, our choice menu and beverages

Abingdon Court
care home

sharing minds and hearts

Christmas Lights

Thursday 28th November
From 5pm - 7pm

Join the residents and staff at Abingdon Court Care Home to celebrate the start of the festive season with the switching on of the Christmas Lights. Last year Abingdon Court was beautifully decorated and this year the display will be even more eye catching. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served and a raffle will take place with some great prizes to raise money for Alzheimer's Research UK.

For more information please contact Karen.

Tel. 01235 535 405
nursing and dementia care

Abingdon Court Care Home, Marcham Road, **Abingdon**
Oxfordshire OX14 1AD www.abingdoncourtcarehome.co.uk

Competitions

If you would like to sponsor a competition please call 01235 511700 or email: competitions@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

WIN Free Birds goodies!

New animated action film Free Birds may be timed to fit in with American Thanksgiving but the plot of this turkey twizzler is sure to appeal to everyone this side of the Atlantic as well.

Reggie (Owen Wilson) is a turkey with more brains that most. As the rest of the flock obliviously gobble the abundance of food provided by the farmers, Reggie suspects fowl play. They are being fattened up for a reason.....!

Kicked out from the coop, Reggie is therefore surprised to find himself not on the carving table but pardoned by the President and transported to a life of luxury at Camp David – spending his days eating pizza and watching trashy TV, life couldn't be sweeter.

But Jake (Woody Harrelson) has other ideas!

As the relentless founder and (only) member of the Turkey Freedom Front, Jake has an important mission to accomplish and needs Reggie's help. Kidnapping him in the dead of night, Jake takes Reggie under his wing and together they embark on a top secret adventure - travelling back in time to change the main course of history!

Along with the beautiful, feisty Jenny (Amy Poehler), do Jake and Reggie have the giblets to free their captured comrades and get turkey off the menu for good? Only a visit to your local cinema will give you the answers!

Closing date

Friday, November 29

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HAODS

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

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Of the Novel by Jane Austen

Directed by Julie Huntington

Musical Director: Alan Lineham Choreographer: David Parsonson

Kenton Theatre New Street, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2BP

13th -16th November 2013

01491 575698

Additional lyrics by Michael Yelland and Frank Bacon
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www.henleyoperatic.co.uk Charity No. 259404 Original watercolour by Susie Lord

Jane Austen's *Pride & Prejudice- The Musical*

First published in 1813, Jane Austen's classic novel follows the main character "Elizabeth Bennet" as she deals with issues of manners, upbringing, morality, education, and marriage in the society of the landed gentry of early 19th-century England. Elizabeth is the second of five feisty daughters of a country gentleman living near the fictional town of Meryton in Hertfordshire. Though the story is set at the turn of the 19th century, it retains a fascination for modern readers, continuing near the top of lists of most loved books – possibly the first "Mills and Boon" of its type. It has become one of the most popular novels in English literature and receives considerable attention from literary scholars. Modern interest in the book has resulted in a number of dramatic adaptations and an abundance of novels and stories imitating Austen's memorable characters or themes. Up until now, there has been no musical version but this delightful adaptation by Bernard J Taylor brings a whole new dimension to Austen's tale. With amusing characters and enchanting melodies, this new musical is a true tribute to the 200th Anniversary of this enduring novel. To date, the book has sold some 20 million copies worldwide.

November 2013

Wed – Fri 13 -15 at 7.45pm Sat 16 at 2.30 and 6.30pm

No of Tickets

Date	Price	Stalls	Balcony	No of Concessions	Total Number	Total due
Wed 13*	£14 Concessions					
Thurs 14	£14					
Fri 15	£15					
Sat 16* **2.30pm**	£14 Concessions					
Sat 16 **6.30pm**	£15					

***Concessions:** ~ £1 Senior Citizens, Friends of Kenton Theatre & HAODS members
Children under 16 £8 all performances ~ Party bookings: Buy 10 get one free

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AUTOWEEKLY

New Mazda has aged well

REVIEW: Mazda2 1.3 Venture

By **Philip Shoulder**

@writeonmotoring

MAZDA'S compact supermini appeared on the scene in 2008. Cosmetic changes for the revised 2012 model include a refreshed face with five corner grille, and big fog lights. The same stylishly sculpted sides and rear-end remain, giving the Mazda2 a taut, dynamic stance.

This latest Venture Edition is based on the five-door hatchback Tamura model and features 16-inch gunmetal alloy wheels, sports styling kit and rear privacy glass. Two petrol engines are available; a 1.3-litre available with 75ps and 84ps outputs and a 1.5-litre with 102ps. The 84ps 1.3 tested here, returns 56.5mpg (combined cycle) and has a CO_2 emission rating of 115g/km. Performance around town and on B roads is perfectly adequate – the little Mazda getting to 62 mph in 13.6 seconds. However, on faster A roads and the motorway it can start to feel a bit breathless, so if you're regularly travelling longer journeys, the bigger 1.5 litre motor is recommended.

The 1.3 can sound also a bit vocal when worked hard, but otherwise refinement levels are acceptable. A stiff bodyshell and re-tuned suspension give the car noticeably better road holding and ride comfort than before.

The precise and nicely-weighted steering combined with compact exterior dimensions give Mazda's supermini a nimble and agile feel. Good visibility, a smooth drivetrain, light clutch and slick manual gearbox also make for an accomplished city companion. Specifications are up on Tamura-spec cars and include: driver's seat height adjustment, leather steering wheel, climate control, and electric rear windows, along with TomTom navigation and Bluetooth.

The cabin has an airy, spacious feel and gives occupants plenty of headroom and the rear bench is comfortably big enough for two. However, at 250 litres, boot space is on the small side.

A well aligned driving position usefully incorporates a left foot rest, although the steering wheel adjusts only for height and not reach; while the front seats - although comfortable - are rather flat and don't offer a huge amount of support. Trim quality feels a bit cheap in places, but it's a nicely styled dashboard, and the navigation function being far better than many rival systems.

Verdict:

Mazda's supermini has aged well, still managing to combine desirable looks and possessing enough ability to give it genuine appeal - although it can't ultimately compete with the latest supermini elite. The range would also benefit with the addition of an efficient diesel.

• *Mazda2 1.3 Venture*

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda Range: Urban 25.4 (11.1) - 55.4 (5.1). Extra Urban 45.6 (6.2) - 78.5 (3.6). Combined 35.3 (8.0) - 67.3 (4.2). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 188 - 108.

The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results.

Retail sales only, subject to vehicle availability for vehicles registered between 01.10.13 and 31.12.13 at participating dealers. T&C apply. *0% finance available on all Mazda2 and Mazda MX-5 models. Examples shown: Mazda2 1.3 5dr TS Air Con, £169 per month with an Optional Final Payment of £3,402 and Mazda MX-5 1.8i SE Air Con, £275 per month with Optional Final Payment of £4,964 are based on 9,000 miles per annum over 42 months on Mazda Personal Contract Purchase and includes dealer contribution. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Finance subject to status, 18s or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Mazda Financial Services RH11 5R. Channel Islands excluded. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Models shown: Mazda2 1.3 5dr TS Air Con, OTR from £10,995 and Mazda MX-5 1.8i SE Air Con, OTR from £18,495. OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, first registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European roadside assistance. Test drives subject to applicant status and availability. Details correct at time of going to publication and may vary, e.g. if list price changes. Not available in conjunction with any other offer unless specified. Johnsons Cars Ltd is an Appointed Representative of ITC Compliance Limited which is Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Registered Name: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Registered Office: Empire Court, Albert Street, Redditch B97 4DA. United Kingdom. Registration No. 3716766 VAT Registration No. 689275160.

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Cash Price	£9,069
Deposit	£154
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Fees	£145
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11 61 FIESTA ZETEC 1.4 PETROL AUTO, 5dr, frozen white/grey, e/w & m, r/CD, PAS, c/l, a/c, Bluetooth, City pack, ABS, ESP, 5 airbags, rear park sensors, 12 months manufacturer's warranty,

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12 62 FOCUS NEW MODEL 1.0 100PS PETROL ZETEC, 5dr, moondust silver met/grey, e/w&m, r/CD, 17" alloys, air con, Bluetooth USB, PAS, privacy glass, ABS, ESP, HFS, front fogs, 6 a/b, BALANCE OF MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY, 1 local owner, low mileage 5,000, £20 RFL/year

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13 13 B MAX ZETEC 1.0 ECOBOOST 125PS, 5 dr, midnight sky/grey, 5 spd, City pack, e/w&m, Ford Sync, power folding mirrors, rear park sensors, HFS, ABS, multiple airbags, alloys, ex-demonstrator, low mileage 3,000, RFL £30 per year

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11 61 FIESTA 1.6 TDCI 95PS ZETEC S DIESEL, 3dr, panther black met/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, r/CD, alloys, a/c, HFS, ABS, ESP, c/l, 5 a/b, PAS, B'tooth, FSH, 1 owner from new, low miles, £20 RFL per year,

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10 10 C MAX ZETEC 1.6 PETROL, 5 spd, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 a/b, alloys, ABS, ESP, parking sensors, front/rear privacy glass, one owner, FSH,

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10 60 KA EDGE 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, crystal white/gry, 5 spd, a/c, e/w&m, c/l, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, low mileage, one local owner from new, FSH, £30RFL per year, 23,947 miles

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13 63 KA EDGE 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, sunrise/grey, 5 spd, PAS, a/c, immobiliser, r/CD, 2 airbags, e/w, remote locking, pre-registered, delivery mileage only 10, £30R FL per year

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11 60 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL SPORT, 5dr, frozen white/grey titanium, sat nav, Bluetooth, USB, rear park sensors, a/c, alloys, HFS, auto wipers & headlamps, front fogs, e/front windows & mirrors, ABS, 6 airbags, one owner, FSH, 33,500 miles

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08 08 FOCUS STYLE 1.6 PETROL 100PS STYLE, 5 dr, ocean blue me/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, PAS, r/CD, a/c, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, low mileage, FSH, 35,959 miles

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11 11 C MAX 1.6 PETROL 125PS TITANIUM, micastone met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, auto lights & wipers, ABS, ESP, convenience pack includes park assist & folding mirrors, global closing, alloys, very low mileage 5,500 miles, one owner, FSH

£12,595

10 10 C MAX 1.8 TDCI DIESEL ZETEC 5 SPD, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, alloys, ABS, ESP, front & rear park sensors, one owner from new, FSH, low mileage 20,325 miles

£8,995

59 10 FOCUS 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM, 5dr, vision blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, HFS, a/c, auto headlights & wipers, PAS, DAB radio CD, ABS, ESP, alloys, rear park sensors, 6 airbags, cruise control, titanium alloys heated seats, one owner, FSH, 38,655

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11 11 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LTD 3 DR, White/ gloss black roof & grey trim, 5 spd, Black Alloys, Tailgate spoiler, Elec/ windows & mirrors, radio cd, power steering, air con, 2 airbags, ABS, 39968,

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10 10 KA ZETEC 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, blush met/grey, 5 spd, a/c, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, PAS, r/CD, alloys, ABS, 2 airbags, rear park sensors, RFL £30 per year, one owner, FSH, low mileage 16,151 miles

£6,995

58 09 KUGA TITANIUM 2.0 TDCI 4WD, moondust silver met/grey, 6 spd, 17" alloys, e/w&m, Sony DAB radio CD, c/l, cruise control, heated screen, front fogs, a/c, FSH, 34,429 miles

£14,995

08 08 FUSION STYLE 1.4 PETROL SEMI AUTO CLIMATE, 5dr, sea grey met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, a/c, r/CD, PAS, 2 airbags, front fogs, ABS, service history, one owner from new, 36,900 miles

£4,995

FIESTA

10 60 FIESTA 1.25 PETROL ZETEC, 5dr, hot magenta special met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, front fogs, r/CD, a/c, 5 airbags, alloys, ABS, ESP, PAS, HFS, one owner from new, FSH, 15,700 miles, DUE IN SOON £8,595

10 60 FIESTA TITANIUM 1.4 PETROL 96PS, 5dr, ink blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, front fogs, cruise control, 5 airbags, alloys, radio/CD, ABS, ESP, PAS, climate, one owner from new, low mileage 15,000 miles, FSH. £9,591

11 61 FIESTA ZETEC 1.4 PETROL AUTOMATIC, 5dr, frozen white/grey, e/w & m, r/CD, PAS, c/l, a/c, Bluetooth, City pack, ABS, ESP, heated screen, 5 airbags, rear park sensors, 12 months manufacturer's warranty, very low mileage 7,159, FSH, one local owner. £8,995

11 61 FIESTA 1.6 TDCI 95PS ZETEC S DIESEL, 3dr, panther black met/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, r/CD, alloys, a/c, HFS, ABS, ESP, c/l, 5 airbags, PAS, Blue tooth, FSH, one owner from new, low mileage, £20 RFL per year, 12,200 miles. £9,995

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08 08 FUSION STYLE 1.4 PETROL SEMI AUTO CLIMATE, 5dr, sea grey met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, a/c, r/CD, PAS, 2 airbags, front fogs, ABS, service history, one owner from new, 36,900 miles £4,995

C MAX S MAX B MAX

11 11 C MAX 1.6 PETROL 125PS TITANIUM, micastone met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, auto lights & wipers, ABS, ESP, convenience pack includes park assist & folding mirrors, global closing, alloys, very low mileage 5,500 miles, one owner, FSH £12,595

13 13 B MAX ZETEC 1.0 ECOBOOST 125PS, 5 dr, midnight sky/grey, 5 spd, City pack, e/w&m, Ford Sync, power folding mirrors, rear park sensors, HFS, ABS, multiple airbags, alloys, ex-demonstrator, low mileage 3,000 miles, RFL £30 per year £15,995

10 10 C MAX 1.8 TDCI DIESEL ZETEC 5 SPD, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated screen, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, alloys, ABS, ESP, front & rear park sensors, one owner from new, FSH, low mileage 20,325 miles £8,995

10 10 C MAX ZETEC 1.6 PETROL, 5 spd, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreen, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, alloys, ABS, ESP, parking sensors, front & rear privacy glass, one owner, FSH, very low mileage 12,012 miles £7,995

KUGA

58 09 KUGA TITANIUM 2.0 TDCI 4WD, moondust silver met/grey, 6 spd, 17" alloys, e/w&m, Sony DAB radio CD, c/l, cruise control, heated screen, front fogs, a/c, FSH, 34,429 miles £14,995

MONDEO

10 60 MONDEO TITANIUM 2.0 PETROL 1.4PS TITANIUM, 5spd, 5 dr, chill met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio CD, heated windscreen, climate control, front fogs, alloys, ABS, ESP, cruise, park sensors, service, one owner from new, 35,500 miles. £9,495

KA

10 60 KA ZETEC 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, blush met/grey, 5 spd, climate con, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, PAS, r/CD, alloys, ABS, 2 airbags, front fogs, low mileage, 2 owners from new, 26,725 miles, FSH £7,295

13 63 KA EDGE 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, sunrise/grey, 5 spd, PAS, a/c, immobiliser, r/CD, 2 airbags, e/w, remote locking, pre-registered, delivery mileage only 10 miles, £30R FL per year £8,495

10 60 KA EDGE 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, crystal white/gry, 5 spd, a/c, e/w&m, c/l, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, low mileage, one local owner from new, FSH, £30RFL per year, 23,947 ..... £5,995

10 10 KA ZETEC 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, blush met/grey, 5 spd, a/c, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, PAS, r/CD, alloys, ABS, 2 airbags, rear park sensors, RFL £30 per year, one owner, FSH, low mileage 16,151 miles. £6,995

07 07 KA 1.3 ZETEC CLIMATE, petrol, 3dr, grey met/grey, 5 speed, Radio CD, Air Con, Heated front screen, Remote central locking, Electric windows and mirrors, Power steering, Alloys, 1 Airbag, ABS, one owner, low mileage for age 22,690 miles,. £3,995

FOCUS

10 60 FOCUS 2.0 TDCI DIESEL POWERSHIFT 6 SPEED AUTO, chill met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, climate/cruise control, ABS, ESP, auto lights & rain sensing wipers, rear park sensors, front fogs, alloys, 6 airbags, one owner from new, FSH, very low mileage 7,500 miles, DUE IN SOON £11,895

11 60 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL SPORT, 5dr, frozen white/grey titanium, sat nav, Bluetooth, USB, rear park sensors, a/c, alloys, HFS, auto wipers & headlamps, front fogs, e/front windows & mirrors, ABS, 6 airbags, one owner, FSH, 33,500 miles. £8,995

12 62 FOCUS NEW MODEL 1.0 100PS PETROL ZETEC, 5dr, moondust silver met/grey, e/w&m, r/CD, 17" alloys, air con, Bluetooth USB, PAS, privacy glass, ABS, ESP, HFS, front fogs, 6 airbags, BALANCE OF MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY, one local owner, low mileage 5,000 miles, £20 RFL per year. £11,995

10 10 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL TITANIUM, 5dr, chilli met/grey, 5 spd, e/w & m, a/c, HFS, auto h'lights & wipers, PAS, power start button, key less entry, DAB r/CD, rear park sensors, cruise, heated seats, 6 airbags, ABS, one owner, FSH, low mileage 23,758 ..... £8,995

59 10 FOCUS 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM, 5dr, vision blue met/grey, 5 spd, e/w & m, HFS, a/c, auto headlights & wipers, PAS, DAB radio CD, ABS, ESP, alloys, rear park sensors, 6 airbags, cruise control, titanium alloys heated seats, one owner, FSH, 38,655 ..... £8,995

08 08 FOCUS STYLE 1.6 PETROL 100PS STYLE, 5 dr, ocean blue me/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, PAS, r/CD, a/c, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, low mileage, FSH, 35,959 miles. £6,995

OTHER MAKES

11 11 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LTD 3 DR, White with gloss black roof & grey trim, 5 speed, Black Alloys, Tailgate spoiler, Electric windows & mirrors, Radio CD, Power steering, Air Con, 2 Airbags, ABS, 39,968, ONE OWNER FROM NEW, SERVICE HISTORY. £7,995

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03 53 PEUGEOT 307CC COUPE, black met/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, climate control, PAS, alloys, 4 airbags, ABS, rear park sensors, ESP, very low mileage 34,048 miles, 2 owners from new, FSH £3,995

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Fuel consumption figures for Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 61.4 (4.6), Combined 53.3 (5.3). CO_2 emissions: 123g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model shown: Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S in Milano Red Solid at £10,495 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S registrations from 1 October 2013 to 31 December 2013. Customer Saving of £1,200 off the On The Road price. Customer saving of £1,200 inc VAT will be applied to retail invoice. Applicable to Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £130 per month example shown based on Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S in solid paint at £10,495 total cash price (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £1,662.88 (16%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment of £4,152.20, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 3p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **Servicing:** Five years' servicing or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first, for £499 including VAT and includes a maximum of five manufacturers' scheduled services.

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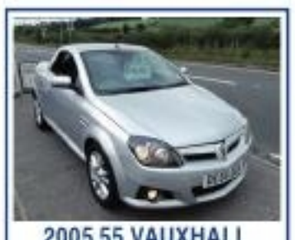

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AUDI

2006 06	Audi A4 2.0 TDi S Line Tdv Turbo Diesel 6-Speed Manual 110270 Miles	£6,995
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BMW

2003 03	BMW 3 Series 318i SE Petrol Automatic 66960 Miles	£3,295
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2007 07	Fiat Grande Punto Active 8v 5dr 1.2 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 56000 Miles	£3,995

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2007 07	Honda Civic 1.8 SE I-VTEC 5dr Petrol 6-Speed Manual 88620 Miles	£4,995
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2003 03	Honda Civic SE I-VTEC 1.6 3dr Petrol 5-Speed Manual 74663 Miles	£2,895
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HYUNDAI

2010 60	Hyundai i10 Classic 5dr 1.2 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 18198 Miles	£4,895
2003 53	Hyundai Getz Gsi 5dr 1.3 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 55460 Miles	£2,495
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KIA

2004 54	Kia Picanto LX 5dr 1.1 AUTO Petrol Automatic 45320 Miles	£2,995
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LAND ROVER

2004 04	Land Rover Freelander S Station Wagon Petrol 5-Speed Manual 92146 Miles	£3,995
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LEXUS

2004 54	Lexus IS 200 SE 2.0 AUTO Petrol Automatic 86800 Miles	£2,995

MAZDA

2009 59	Mazda Mazda6 6 D Ts 5dr Turbo Diesel 6-Speed Manual 102517 Miles	£5,795
2006 56	Mazda Mazda5 5 Sport D 7str 2.0 Turbo Diesel 6-Speed Manual 86870 Miles	£5,695
2004 04	Mazda Mazda3 3 1.4 S 5dr, Petrol 5-Speed Manual 83080 Miles	£3,295
2001 51	Mazda MX-5 Convertible 1.6 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 84227 Miles	£2,895

MERCEDES

2002 52	Mercedes-Benz C Class C230 Kompressor SE 1.8 6-Speed Manual 74020 Miles	£3,795
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MITSUBISHI

2005 54	Mitsubishi Shogun Sport 2.5 Equippe TD Turbo Diesel 5-Speed Manual 63921 Miles	£4,695
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2007 57	Nissan Note 1.6 Tekna Petrol Automatic 77465 Miles	£4,595
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2006 56	Nissan Note SE 1.6 AUTO FINANCE AVAILABLE Petrol Automatic 88503 Miles	£3,495
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PORSCHE

2002 52	Porsche Boxster 24v 2.7 Ready to go! Petrol 5-Speed Manual 111210 Miles	£5,995

RENAULT

2007 07	Renault Megane 1.6 Dynamique VVT Petrol 5-Speed Manual 34870 Miles	£4,995
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2007 56	Renault MeganeDynamique VVT 1.6, Petrol 5-Speed Manual 57880 Miles	£4,495
2004 04	Renault Scenic Privilege 16v 1.6 Petrol 5-Speed Manual 71650 Miles	£2,795
2003 53	Renault Clio Dynamique Billabong 1.4 16v 3dr, Petrol 5-Speed Manual 60,310 miles	£2,495
2003 03	Renault Megane Scenic Expression 16v 1.6 petrol 5-speed manual 61420 miles	£2,295

SKODA

2002 02	Skoda Superb Comfort V6 TDi 2.5 FINANCE AVAILABLE Turbo Diesel 6-Speed Man 84924 Miles	£2,795

TOYOTA

2007 07	Toyota RAV-4 XT3 D-4D 2.2 Diesel 6-Speed Manual 95050 Miles	£7,295
2003 03	Toyota RAV-4 Gx VVT-I Petrol 5-Speed Manual 72244 Miles	£4,695
2007 56	Toyota Aygo 1.0 VVT-I 3dr - £20 A YEAR TAX Petrol 5-Speed Manual 69345 Miles	£3,295
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VAUXHALL

2006 06	Vauxhall Zafira Design CDTi 8v Seven Seats, Turbo Diesel Automatic 70318 Miles	£4,995
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Fuel consumption figures for the CR-V 1.6 i-DTEC range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 56.5 - 58.9 (5.0 - 4.8), Extra Urban 62.8 - 65.7 (4.5 - 4.3), Combined 60.1 - 62.8 (4.7 - 4.5). CO_2 emissions: 124 - 119g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Model Shown: CR-V 1.6 I-DTEC SR Manual in optional Urban Titanium Metallic at £23,300 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail CR-V 1.6 I-DTEC registered between 19 October 2013 to 31 December 2013. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £165 per month example shown based on CR-V 1.6 I-DTEC S in Urban Titanium Metallic at £23,300 total cash price (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £7,949 (34%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £9,411, annual mileage of 18,500 and excess mileage charge: 4.58p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. **Complimentary Servicing:** 5 years' servicing or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first, includes a maximum of 5 manufacturer's scheduled services. Registered Name: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Registered Office: Empire Court, Albert Street, Redditch B97 4DA. United Kingdom. Registration No. 3716766 VAT Registration No. GB927551606. Johnsons Cars Ltd is an Appointed Representative of ITC Compliance Limited which is Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

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Official Government fuel consumption figures (Range): Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/mpg) & CO_2 emissions (g/km); Highest: Citroën DS4 THP 160 6-speed automatic 10.6/26.6, 6.0/47.1, 7.7/36.7, 178. Lowest: Citroën DS5 Hybrid4 200 Airdream DSign 3.1/91.1, 3.6/78.5, 3.4/83.1, 88. MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions.

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Check wiper blades

According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, during Winter 'the biggest single danger is being unable to see properly' so visibility is key. Worn or split wiper blades may cause them to leave smears and greasy marks on the windscreen and affect visibility, so to avoid these hazards we will replace your front wiper blades where applicable.

Check battery condition

During the Winter flat batteries are consistently the number one reason for breakdown, so during our Winter Service, we check it out, clean the terminals and top up the fluids to ensure it is ready for the perils of Winter.

Check the condition & pressures of tyres

The tread depth, tyre condition and pressure of your tyres are essential items that should be checked as is vitally important that your tyres grip the road properly to reduce the risk of skidding and aquaplaning in Wintery conditions. Julians fully endorse the guidelines set by the Tyre Industry Council, which state that tyres should be considered for changing when the tread depth remaining reaches approximately 3mm, at which depth they are 78% worn.

Check operation & condition of lights

Lights should be checked to ensure they are working properly. It is important to make sure lights are free from dirt; this includes your headlights, fog lights and indicators, so we will thoroughly check the operation and condition of your lights to ensure they are working efficiently

Check & top up all under bonnet fluid levels

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Check and top up brake, clutch and washer fluid

Check antifreeze content and advise*

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As part of our Duty of Care to you, we will carry out a visual safety check of your vehicle, we will inform you of the condition of your vehicle and what remedial work, if any, need to be done and on what timescale.

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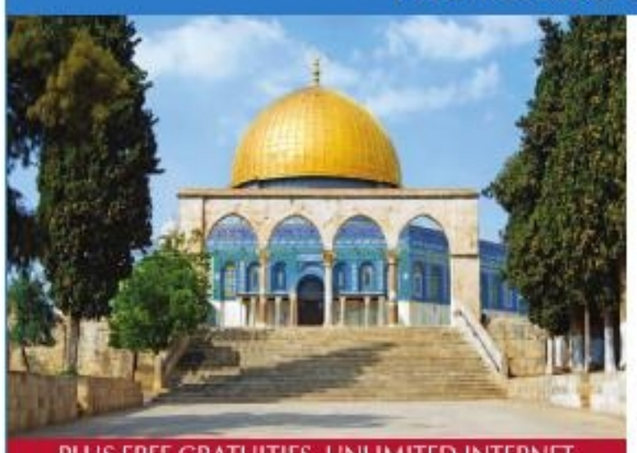

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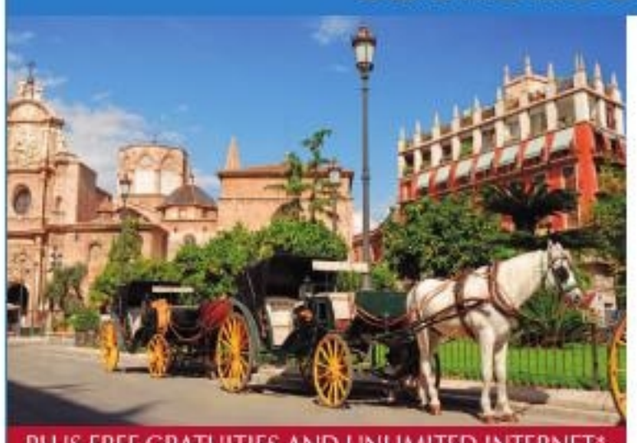

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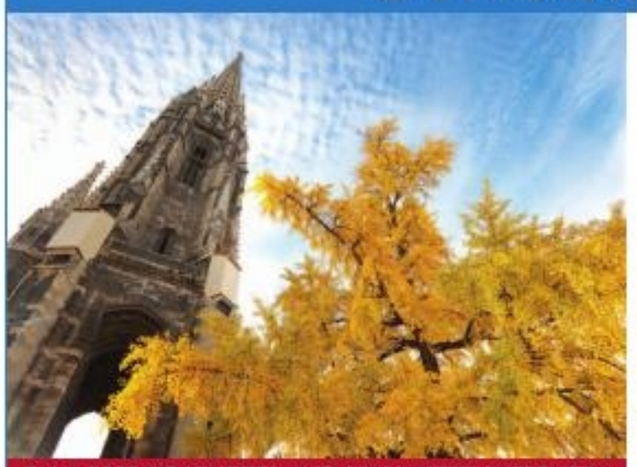

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U's leave it late, but keep their FA Cup dream alive

A LATE Danny Rose equaliser saw Oxford United avoid an FA Cup first round upset at the hands of Conference side Gateshead last Saturday as they battled back from the brink to draw 2-2 and force a replay.

James Marwood's wonder strike from 30 yards put the Tynesiders in front on 12 minutes and United were in deep trouble just six minutes after the break as Jamie Chandler slotted the ball past Ryan Clarke for 2-0

However, Chris Wilder's men rallied and the impact of substitute Ryan Williams saw United bombard the Gateshead penalty area for the last 20 minutes.

On 76 minutes the pressure paid off as Deane Smalley slammed home David Hunt's low cross for his sixth of the season.

James Constable also went close as United pushed for an equaliser but a last roll of the dice saw Adam Bartlett brilliantly deny Smalley and Rose bravely headed the ball over the line.

The replay will be played at Gateshead's International Arena on November 20, while a trip to Wrexham, another Conference club, awaits in the second round.

In a match where United look disjointed and average for 70 minutes, Rose was disappointed not to win the game.

He said: "It is a game we should be winning, not comfortably because they are a decent side, but we were not good enough in all aspects of the game especially the first 70 minutes.

"But we showed a bit of spirit which we have shown on many occasions."

He added: "We started quite brightly, we passed it well, and then the goal deflated us which it shouldn't do as it was 1-0 and it wasn't the end of the world.

"For one reason or another they managed to get a foothold in the game and after that their spirits were up and too many of us went into our shell.

"We started the second half quite brightly but the goal came again but thankfully we managed to scrape through in the end."

Tom Newey was forced off at half-time with concussion after a clash with Clarke but a more worrying sight for Wilder was his captain Jake Wright limping off with a hamstring injury after half an hour.

This weekend United return to league action and have the opportunity to go back to the top of the table as they travel to Mansfield Town.

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

• *Deane Smalley challenges for the ball (Picture by Steve Daniels)*

Smith thanks team after first season

BRADLEY Smith's rookie season in MotoGP came to a close on Sunday, with the Oxford-based rider coming seventh in the final race of the year at Valencia.

Smith made a trademark strong start and was able to fend off team-mate Cal Crutchlow for the opening six laps, before his compatriot was able to get back ahead.

Afterwards Smith had a relatively quiet race, but was able to bring his bike home and ended the year 10th in the standings with 116 points.

He said: "The gap to the fastest guys is less than 30 seconds again and that is a positive end to the weekend, and a really positive way to end the year.

"I think we definitely showed good progress throughout the season and I want to thank my team for the amazing job they have done in teaching and helping me over the last 12 months in this really tough category.

"It has been a lot of fun as well and I'm really grateful to have such an experienced squad behind me."

Testing for next year is already underway, and Smith was able to set the sixth-fastest time on Tuesday, after completing a total of 78 laps.

Nomads lose at Highmoor

OXFORD City Nomads lost their third game in a row on Saturday, after a disappointing 2-1 defeat away to Highmoor Ibis.

Nomads have slipped down the table in recent weeks after a strong start to the season, and following Saturday's game they were now sixth in the Hellenic Premier Division, with 32 points after 20 games.

Meanwhile, Thame United took two 2-1 victories within a week, the first of which coming at home to Binfield in the league on Saturday.

This was followed up with a 2-1 victory over AFC Hinksey in the Oxfordshire Senior Cup, and will play Carterton or Freeland in the next round.

Kidlington enjoyed a dominant 10-0 win over Chalgrove Cavaliers, as they also progressed to the next round of the county cup.

Abingdon Town picked up their fifth point of the season on Saturday, with a 0-0 draw at home to Highworth Town.

The Abbots next play Newbury on Saturday, with new manager Paul Davis at the helm after he was announced by the club yesterday afternoon.

Resilient City take four points from six

OXFORD City secured four points from six in three days this week.

Mike Ford's men thumped Stockport County 4-1 on Saturday, before coming from behind twice on Tuesday night to secure a 2-2 draw at Histon.

An unfortunate Lee Henderson own goal only spurred City on at the weekend, and Jamie Cook almost levelled after 10 minutes as his shot flew inches wide.

Five minutes later the home side did pull level when Tom Winters steered the ball home through a crowded box from Chris Palmer's corner.

The home side seized the initiative after the break and took a deserved lead with a superb 30 yard strike from Mike Symonds that flew past Ryan Jones in the County goal.

The visitors were then reduced to 10 men when captain and last man Kieran Charnock saw red after dragging down Darren Pond.

It was Pond who increased City's lead on 67 minutes when he headed powerfully home from Palmer's cross.

Symonds saw an effort ruled out for offside before Callum McNish set up Kayden Jackson to slot home City's fourth.

On Tuesday, goals from Winters and Jackson ensured city came away from Histon with their fourth away point of the season.

City are 18th in the Skrill North with 12 points from 14 games.

• *City's players celebrate against Stockport (Picture by Mike Allen)*

Sport Bites

Steady Eddie

FRILFORD Heath golfer Eddie Pepperell managed to finish in a solid tie for 50th place at the Turkish Airlines Open on Sunday, with a score of eight under par.

Rounds of 69, 74, 65 and 72 meant that Pepperell finished on the same score as three-time major champion Padraig Harrington, along with Belgian Nicolas Colsaerts.

However it was not enough to make the top 60 of the Race to Dubai, with Pepperell eventually finishing 76th, with 389,766 points.

Hawks win

OXFORD Hawks strong form continued on Saturday, with a 3-0 win to move up to sixth in hockey's South League Premier 1.

Goals from Jack Biggs, Tom Godding and Ethan Chapman wrapped up the points for Hawks, in what turned out to be a comfortable victory for the hosts.

They play again on Saturday, away at unbeaten league leaders Spencer.

Stars fade

OXFORD City Stars endured two defeats in the National Ice Hockey League 2 South over the weekend, with a 3-2 loss away at Lee Valley Lions on Saturday followed by a 6-2 drubbing at home to the Bristol Pitbulls. They have fallen to second in the league as a result, with 12 points from seven games.

10 in 10 for the Quins

OXFORD Harlequins faced more of a challenge, but were still able to make it 10 wins from 10 after coming from behind to beat Devizes 19-11 on Saturday.

Devizes were 11-5 ahead of half-time but Quins were able to get back into control, and now enjoy a seven point lead at the top of the South West 1 East table.

Meanwhile, Grove were able to grab a last minute try to earn a draw in their home match against Newbury Blues, which ended 16-16.

Guy Nicholl was the hero for Grove to earn his side a point, placing Grove ninth in the standings with 23 points.

Both sides are now preparing to play each other on November 23, when Quins host Grove for the first time this season.

In the SSE National League 1, Henley Hawks lost for the second game in succession, as they were defeated 17-10 at home to Old Albanian.

But Chinnor were able to pick up a 40-17 victory in the SSE National League 2 South, to sit tied-fourth in the league.

DIDCOT Guardian Sport

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DIDCOT PUT SIX PAST CLEVEDON

'Fantastic' start to managerial life for Concannon and Heapy

DIDCOT made a spectacular start to life under the joint leadership of Ian Concannon and Jamie Heapy with a 6-2 mauling of Clevedon.

A Pablo Haysham brace, a Sam Teale own goal and strikes from Kameron Abbassi, John Mills and Ben Whitehead fired the Railwaymen to a stunning victory.

It was the first time a Didcot side had netted six times in a competitive game since beating Burnham five years ago by the same scoreline.

And Concannon was delighted with how his team performed.

"We would have been happy with a scrappy 1-0 win to be honest," he said. "But to score six at home and play the way we did was fantastic, really fantastic.

By James Booker
jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

"We had a really good positive week in training – the lads were sharp, they showed a lot of commitment, a lot of desire and put a lot of work in.

"They were lively, worked hard and took it into the game on Saturday.

"We did say to them before the game – we just want you to go out there, work hard, press them high up the pitch and cause them to make mistakes, and when you get the chance, go and play.

"And they did all that and more – all of them were really, really good."

The result lifts Diddy up to 18th in Division One South and West, and they face a tough trip to play-off chasing Bridgwater on Saturday.

"It was nice to get off to a good start at home, and get three points from a team around us," added Concannon.

"But we're already looking towards the next game at Bridgwater – that will be a totally different game against better opposition, no disrespect to Clevedon."

He added that every member of his squad will get the chance to prove themselves as they get used to the new management.

"In all fairness to the players - because of how well they played on Saturday, they all deserve the chance to be playing for Didcot again," he said.

"We made it very clear to the lads – we haven't got a big squad. We've give the lads a chance to show us and show people what they can do. Everybody will be given a chance and a fair crack of the whip to stake their claim for the shirt."

Didcot Town	6
Clevedon Town	2

• *Ben Whitehead was one of the goalscorers in Didcot's 6-2 demolition of Clevedon on Saturday (Picture by Roger Neal)*

Last-gasp Rose show gets U's out of jail

LATE goals from Deane Smalley and Danny Rose saw Oxford United battle back from 2-0 down to earn an FA Cup first round replay against Conference side Gateshead.

With 15 minutes to go the Tynesiders looked to have put United to the sword but Chris Wilder's men never gave up hope.

The replay at Gateshead is scheduled to take place on November 20.

See inside sport for full story.

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